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Thursday, July 25, 1985
Shravana 3, 1907 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Third Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 25, 1985/Sravana 3,
1907 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

News Item Captioned 'New ONGC Policy Hits Shipyards'

*41. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be please to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "New ONGC Policy hits "shipyard" appearing in Business Standard dated the 26 June, 1985 wherein it has been reported that Oil and Natural Gas Commission revising its earlier policy of acquiring indigenous offshore supply vessels has put some of the Indian shipyards in trouble;

(b) if so, whether these shipyards which had formed a consortium specifically to execute Oil and Natural Gas Commission orders for OSVs are at a loss to understand what they will do with additional capacity and expertise if no repeat orders are given to them by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission; and

(c) if so, details of the position in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT : (a) to (c) There is no revision in the Policy of ONGC for acquiring indigenous Offshore Supply Vessels from Indian shipyards. ONGC have already placed orders for manufacture of OSVs on Indian shipyards. However, their future requirement

is planned to be met by charter-hire. The capacity of Indian shipyards can be utilised by making the Indian companies, who propose to charter-hire OSVs to ONGC, place orders on Indian shipyards.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : During the previous years, ONGC has given orders for OSVs to these Indian Shipyards, and had also given an assurance to place further orders for such vessels. But in the meantime, the ONGC has imported 6 foreign vessels. May I know whether some Indian Shipyards, particularly those in the eastern region, are going to face trouble due to ONGC not placing further orders with them. If so, what steps are the Government going to make to help the Indian Shipyards which are likely to be in trouble ?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : As I have already stated in my answer, ONGC have not changed their policy of acquiring OSVs and OPSSVs from the indigenous Shipyard. The consortium of these four Shipyards came into existence in 1983 and before that there were demands of the ONGC for OSVs and OPSSVs. Quite a sizeable orders were placed after the consortium was formed and the technology was transferred from Norweign Shipyard for indigenous manufacture of these OSVs and OPSSVs. But because of the heavy demand of such vessels, some import was allowed and some purchases were made from the foreign Shipyards also. The present position is it is true that the ONGC are not placing further orders for the purchase of OSVs and OPSSVs and they have taken a decision that because of the financial constraints, they will go for charter-hire.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What is meant by OSVs and OPSSVs ?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : Offshore supply vessels and Offshore Platform Support-cum Supply Vessels.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you do such a wrong thing some times, Professor ?

[English]

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : That is the position. Because of the policy, the demand for OSVs and OPSSVs is there and the private companies and public sector undertakings may place orders to the indigenous shipyards, make purchase from them and put them at the disposal of the ONGC in the scheme of chartering.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : I would like to know whether the Government have made any study on the problem of the Indian Shipyards. If so, what are the main reasons and what are the main problems of the Shipyards at present and what steps are the Government taking to remove these difficulties and problems of the Indian Shipyards ?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : Naturally, the problems are that of lack of orders. As far as these OSVs and OPSSVs are concerned, because of a world-wide recession there is a very big and cut-throat competition among the shipyards in the world and the foreign shipyards are just selling their ships at a much lower price. Therefore, the Government have taken a decision that over the international price which will be assessed by the valuers, 30 per cent will be given to the shipyards and just to give support and just to bring down the prices of the shipyards, out of this 30 per cent, 15 per cent will be covered by the ONGC and 15 per cent by the Petroleum Ministry.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Sir, the ONGC in India for the last few years is functioning like a parallel government. They hardly care for the Minister and they hardly care for the Government decisions.

MR. SPEAKER : Do they agree with it ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I am putting my question. I request you to allow a discussion at the end of the Session on the ONGC. Technicians in the average age group of 30-40 years are building up the resources for the country. But the people at the top are behaving in such a manner just to get imports and other orders from abroad and thereby siphoning the money of the country year after year and putting the country's interests at stake.

My question is—it is not connected with petroleum.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Munsi, so far you have referred to the Petroleum Ministry. But I would like you to put something which concerns this Ministry.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I am putting that question.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you put that question ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I am coming to that.

MR. SPEAKER : Why this circuitous manner ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : It is inter-connected and I have already explained it. The shipyards and the docks for off-shore drilling lie with the Transport Minister but the other things lie with the Petroleum Minister. I am helpless. My question is this. I want to know whether it is a fact that on turnkey project basis, Mazagaon Dock Ltd. was authorised as a licensee of the ONGC to complete the project with the supportive indigenous off-shore drilling process in the shipyards and after having done so, the Mazagaon Dock is pressurised by the ONGC to ignore all these proposals that they have executed earlier. And if so, is the Ministry going to make any inquiry into it ? That is my question.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : The supplementary does not arise out of this question. This question is basically regarding the change in the policy of the ONGC, as far as the purchases of OSVs and OPSSVs from the indigenous shipyards is concerned; it does not pertain to the other sectors.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : My question was this, viz. that the proposal of the Mazagaon Docks on turnkey basis to maintain indigenous projects in this matter, and to maintain the shipyard for off-shore drilling, was authorised by ONGC by licensing. Later on, i. e. now, that project is being ignored. It is a fact or not ? Do you think that it is not connected with this ? How is it so ? You may say that you do not know it.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : My difficulty is that the question pertains either to the Ministry of Petroleum or to the Ministry of Defence, because the Mazagaon Dock is under the Ministry of Defence. How can I be expected to answer a question pertaining to other Ministries?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I would like to bring in a very important aspect related to this question. The Cochin Shipyard is now going to face a complete lock-out or closure, because of the present policy adopted by the Government. This is one of the major Shipyard in India, where 75,000 CWT. ships are to be built; and six orders were there for bulk carriers from shipping Corporation. That has now been cancelled. Subsequently, the Cochin Shipyard thought that they will get this ONGC business.

I am associated with them, as a trade union leader. I presented a memorandum as early as in 1983, to get these orders. Now this Government has given orders to Mitsui Company in Japan for \$42 crores. By this action, a foreign agency is coming into the country, and it will take away the know-how of this country; and the shipping industry will be put to various difficulties. It cannot come up. At present, there are reports about all these things in our papers, and our part of the country, which say that the Cochin Shipyard is to be closed. Crores of rupees have been invested, and they have no work. Workers are remaining idle. I would like to ask the Minister whether Government will re-think about this matter, and give this work to our shipyards, either to the Cochin Shipyard or other shipyards, wherever it is possible.

I would also like to point out that for shipmaking, Government is giving 80% as loan and subsidy. When 80% is given as loan and subsidy to private individuals, and it is on Government money that ships are brought in, where these oil tankers and carriers are brought to ONGC, a Government concern, our shipyards should be promoted. Will Government consider this aspect? This is my question.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : As far as the main question is concerned, it is about indigenous capacity. The point is that when indigenous capacity is available, we must utilize it; and I do agree with the hon.

Member on this count. As far as the issue of Cochin Shipyard is concerned, it is not the matter at issue now. It is only those four shipyards.....

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : It is, Sir. We have, i.e. the Cochin Shipyard has quoted Rs. 200 crores; and it was negotiated..

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : I can answer that question, provided a separate question is put. Presently, we are concerned only with ONGC's Policy, and also with the four shipyards which had formed a consortium for building OSVs and OPSSVs.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The reply is not satisfactory.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : It is not satisfactory. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : It is not satisfactory. I want Government to think in terms of changing the Policy of giving it to a foreign agency. They have sabotaged our shipping industry by coming to India; and we will have no way to get out of it once and for all. So, I want this Government to re-think on it, because when a foreign company comes in, our technology will not improve. That is what I am complaining. We have the infra-structure. That infra-structure is sabotaged because of this policy.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The question is simple, viz. whether he will re-think. Is that re-thinking not permissible? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : I have not said that re thinking is not permissible. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : They are in a soup because of this... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, You should answer this question. I think it is quite pertinent on their behalf to have put the question—whether the policy can be reviewed or not. There is nothing so binding that we should be rigid on it.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : As far as the policy of the Ministry of Shipping and

Transport is concerned, it has a firm policy that if indigenous capacity is available, then there is no question of allowing it.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : It is available, but it is not being utilized.

MR. SPEAKER : That can be a point of view otherwise also.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : I do not want to enter into a controversy. The policy of the Shipping & Transport Ministry is quite firm on this issue that where the indigenous capacity is available we should utilize that capacity as far as possible. Suppose ONGC is requiring certain specialised ships immediately and they cannot be acquired from the indigenous source, then, of course, we have no option but to permit them to do it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can just have a meeting with them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : How are they going to re-employ the workers ?

MR. SPEAKER : You put another question and I will get an answer for that. In the meantime, they can have a review of this thing. If they are giving some subsidy and 80 per cent of the money is being provided, then it can be thought of otherwise also.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : As a matter of fact, while giving permission for the purchase of ships from abroad, this angle is always studied that is the capacity of the indigenous shipyards.

Transport Fund for Development of Transport System of Delhi and Other Cities

*42. **SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA† :**

SHRI B. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to create a transport fund with contribution from the Ministries of Railways, Works and Housing and Shipping and Transport apart from local bodies mainly for the development of transport system of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to create similar funds for the development of transport in other cities also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) The question of creation of a fund, by pooling of resources with contributions from Ministries of Railways, Works & Housing, Shipping and Transport and Local Bodies, for the development of Transport System in Delhi, was discussed in an inter-departmental meeting on 7th June, 1985. The general consensus was that each concerned Agency will explore the proposal and intimate the position to the Ministry of Works and Housing, who are to operate the Fund.

(c) No decision has been taken so far in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Really it is a good proposal but to solve the transport problem of the metropolitan cities of our country, what is really necessary is the need for effective total transportation system, and this is only possible if there is a coordinating agency capable of planning, implementing and administering the efficient transport system which is lacking in our country. This was felt by various committees constituted by the Government previously including the National Transport Policy Committee. In view of this, will the government consider a proposal for setting up an integrated coordinating agency for planning, implementing and administering the total transport system—railway, surface and water transport system ?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : The hon. member has rightly pointed out that many committees recommended for such an authority which should take a total view on this transport policy. The National Transport Policy Committee also recommended for some such authority, a single transport authority to be set up which should take as a part of regional development, an overall charge of all modes of transport. The

recommendation of the National Transport Policy Committee has been accepted by the Government.

Only the railway services in the urban areas have been excluded. Excluding the suburban railway system, for all other modes of transport this recommendation has been accepted by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not start some ferry service in Bombay ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They want us to swim only.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, you know the transport problem of the city of Calcutta. In Calcutta the road space is only 6 per cent, whereas in Delhi it is 22 per cent, in Bombay it is 18 per cent and in Madras it is 16 per cent. We do not know when the construction of the Metro Railway will be completed. The Railway Minister is here today. Though the target date is December 1989 one "if" has been added now, that "if the funds are available it will be completed within the target date." So, in view of the problem of the city of Calcutta will the Government also consider having what has been mooted for Delhi, for Calcutta also ? The proposal of funding in consultation with the different Ministries and implementing through the Works & Housing Ministry can be extended to the city of Calcutta considering the traffic problem there. Will the Government consider the proposal to extend this to third city of Calcutta ?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : I do agree that there are problems not only in Delhi, but in Calcutta, in Bombay the problems are much more severe because of the population—human population as well as of the vehicles—and actually this inter-departmental meeting was held for Delhi only because as a matter of fact the question of catering to the needs of transport is a State subject. The local bodies, the local authorities like Municipal Corporations, they take care of the needs of the metropolitan city transport systems.

For Delhi we called a meeting of the organisations which are involved in the transport system and for the total development of Delhi. We have just discussed the things and there was a consensus that every

department and Ministry will send its proposals to the Ministry of Works and Housing and then they will take a total view.

As far as we are concerned we do agree that those problems are there and we are just trying for Delhi to have a consensus on these points. For other cities the State Governments and the local bodies are involved to have some sort of a transport system.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : But funds should be made available to them.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : There is still another name, Amitabhji. Why are you raising your hand so high when your hands and those of mine even when half raised are quite high ?

SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN (Allahabad) : This is while, I am sitting, Sir ?

[*English*]

SHRI B. N. REDDY : In this regard, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if there are any proposals to provide any transport facilities at the Vizag port.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : At present there are no proposals.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Since Shri Jaipal has come now, I shall give Shri Amitabh an opportunity to speak, as there was a complaint that he did not speak...(*Interruptions*) and Shri Jaipal was more vocal in this complaint. So, I want to remove it now.

SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He is filling up the backlog of films as well as the questions.

I have never raised any objection to his silence. Only Congressmen have raised objections.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a city in India....

MR. SPEAKER : Since Shri Jaipal has come now, I shall give an opportunity to Shri Bachchan.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Sir, he is Jaipal whereas Shri Bachchan is Jaya-Pal.

SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : There is a city in India, where the transport services are most disappointing and the name of that city is Allahabad. Since a transport fund is being created now, will some allocation, out of the fund left over after spending the same in big cities, be made for improving the transport service in Allahabad ?

MR. SPEAKER : He is saying that allocation will be made not from the left-over but from the original fund.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : Sir, Allahabad is very dear to us.....

MR. SPEAKER : What do you think about the people of Allahabad ?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : The city where the Ganga and the Jamuna meet, where Bachchan's 'Madhusala' echoes and which has given us a fine artist, of the calibre of Amitabh Bachchan is very dear to us, but the difficulty with us is..... So far as I am concerned, I like those that like you also. I love that city as also the people who live there.

But, Sir, the problem is that there are twelve cities whose population is more than one million. The problem of such metropolitan cities is very complex and as I told you earlier, it is a State subject. We had made a beginning just to find a way out. It will also lead to helping other States to find a way out and, perhaps, other States may also pay attention to it and they may also associate themselves with it.

So far as Allahabad is concerned, so far we have not been to do anything for even these twelve cities. Therefore, we are helpless.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : By implication he is suggesting that the population of Allahabad should go up.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : Not by more births but by shifting.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Public transport systems in all cities are subsidised by the Government, but there should be a uniform policy. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much subsidy the Government is giving to DTC. Is the Minister aware of an organisation called BEST which is carrying 4.5 million commuters everyday and where there is no queue breaking, no ticketless travelling and out of 100 buses, 95 buses are on the road during peak hours ? why is the Government not considering giving subsidy to other urban transport systems like Calcutta, Madras and Bombay ?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : As I have already said, to provide transport facilities to the cities including metropolitan cities is the responsibility of the State Governments.

It is not the Central Government which provides these facilities. We only just come to their rescue whenever there is a problem. As far as Delhi is concerned, Delhi has got a peculiar status because the main transport facility for this city of Delhi is only road transport which is being operated by the Delhi Transport Corporation by running buses, and that Corporation is under the Ministry of Shipping and Transport. It is not the subsidy, it is just by giving some loan assistance to the DTC that we are giving them support. No subsidy is being given.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just stated that the transport problem is a State subject. But what I would request is if this transport, solving an infrastructural problem, is a State subject, then we should have adequate funds to support this programme. In case adequate provisions are not made in terms of borrowings, in terms of raising loans, in terms of anything else, then probably the Central Government should come to the assistance of the State Government. For instance, the Hyderabad city is in a very bad shape. The transport problem is acute there and there is no infrastructure at all. Therefore, if we are given a fund, if we are allowed to raise the funds, we will raise on our own, or else the Central Government must do it. This is what I would request the Minister to consider.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi, Next question.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Sir, I should sit next to Mr. Amitabh Bachchan so that you may see my hand raised. I have raised my hand first; however, seven to eight hands were allowed subsequently.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, next time you sit there.

[Translation]

Leakage of Question Papers of B. Ed.
Entrance Examination of Delhi University

*43. **DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI† :**

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the question papers set for the B.Ed. Entrance examination of the Delhi University were sold;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government against the persons who sold these question papers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on a number of occasions earlier some other examination papers of Delhi University had been leaked;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) action taken by Government to avoid such recurrences ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) A part of the test material for the B.Ed. admission test scheduled for June 28-29, 1985 had leaked out.

(b) The Vice-Chancellor has appointed a one-man Enquiry Committee to go into the leakage of test material, to fix responsibility for the lapse, and to suggest remedial measures.

(c) According to the Delhi University, no leakage of examination papers had taken place during the last five years.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Enquiry Committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor has been asked to recommend remedial measures to prevent

any leakage of question papers in the future.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : I want to know from the hon Minister whether these bunglings relating to the sale of question papers and their leakage started from the time since a personal friend of the Registrar of the University was appointed there as officer on Special Duty Examinations. Before that as the Minister has himself told as such a thing had not happened there. Is it a fact that these irregularities started after that person was appointed as Officer on Special Duty (Examinations) whose name had appeared in the 'Jan-Satta' dated 28th June ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : This leakage came to light on the morning of 28th June when the examination was due to start. Half an hour before the paper was due to start, some old students met the Vice Chancellor, and showed him a Zerox-copy purported to be a copy of the paper set for the examination. The Vice Chancellor immediately sent a person to find out the fact. "On checking the facts it was found that the paper did contain some such material and, as such, he cancelled that examination and constituted a committee to inquire into it. This committee will investigate and establish the responsibility for this leakage and, I think, it will not be people on my part to say at this stage who is responsible for it. It will not be proper to name anybody before the enquiry committee submits its report.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : I also want to know whether the student leaders, who purchased the question paper for Rs. 500 and produced it before the Vice Chancellor, also made allegations that such irregularities were a regular feature in the Delhi University in the case of other professional courses like M.B.B.S. etc. too, and if so, whether Government are considering to hand over this case for investigation to agencies, like, the C.B.I., so that such bunglings could be stopped ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been complaints about the entrance examination for M.B.B.S. also. The hon. Member's submission that there have been various complaints during

the last few years is correct. Today, I had a talk with the Vice Chancellor. Earlier, the University had set up the Justice Bhargava Committee to inquire into the complaints regarding the examinations of 1980—82. Thereafter, computerisation was introduced for preparing the results. Still, some complaints were received last year, due to which the matter was taken to the High Court. Ultimately, manual rechecking of the entire examination result for the M.B.B.S. was done. This year also, there was complaint regarding entrance examination for M.D. and M.S. Thereupon, re-checking was done. I had also asked whether there were any complaints this year also regarding M.B.B.S. to which he replied that no complaint had been received.

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has revealed that an enquiry committee was set up by the Vice chancellor. This process of the setting up of enquiry committee and then holding the enquiry takes a long time and in the meantime, the people forget about it. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether some time—limit has been fixed in this regard and if so, whether the officials responsible for the delay have been punished and if not, what are the reasons for that ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the one-man enquiry committee set up by the University earlier had submitted its interim report and, thereafter, it submitted its second report. The enquiry committee set up for the M.B.B.S. Examinations is another committee, which had submitted its recommendations, and action on some of the recommendations has already been taken. The rest of the recommendations were referred to the Third Committee which has submitted its recommendations and the same are with me. If the hon. Member wants, I can give its details.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, complaints are received every year regarding the leakage of papers and irregularities in examination results in the Delhi University Committees had also been set up a number of times, but their recommendations were put in cold storage. Is it a fact that the Dean of the Delhi University had prepared photo copies

of the question paper of B. Ed in advance ? If so, what were the reasons for that ? As Government propose to hand over the work of conducting the examinations to a public body to stop the bungling ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, I have seen that the Delhi University had taken prompt action. When in the morning, the Vice Chancellor came to know half an hour before the examination was scheduled to start that such Xerox copies were with the students, he immediately cancelled it. He conducted the examinations afresh and set up a committee and took action. I do not think the University had failed in the matter in any way. There is another good feature that there is a provision for re-checking in the Delhi University. If there is any complaint regarding re-checking, any student can approach him at any time. Some bunglings have also been detected in this regard. I think this is a very healthy tradition and provision. Thousands of students take examinations every year. There is room for bungling in the examinations, and bunglings have taken place too but we should support the University if it is vigilant

[English]

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Sir, there are frequent reports of leakages of question papers and mass-copying by the students at university examinations. Some of the universities are very strict; but some are not so. In Bihar we found that they passed a Criminal law, imposing 2 years' rigorous imprisonment on students resorting to such unfair practices in examinations. It had some effect in the beginning but now this mass copying is a common practice. There are also reports of such happenings in other universities. Would the Government of India take some serious measures to discourage such things ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : We will look into this while examining the education system. But, basically, I think, one of the problems is that the present evaluation and grading system at examinations only tests a student's memory.

Our entire social system, administrative system, and our way of looking at things is such that once a student gets a certain division or a certain mark, then, that goes

against him, that acts as a blemish for his whole career. Therefore, an examination perhaps has become a sort of test, to test the memory rather than the understanding of the students; that aspect has become rather far too important in the scheme of things. But there are no easy options. Some people suggest National Examination. Again there are flaws. Some suggest computerisation. I have just told you the kind of flaws which comes in the way of computerisation and then there is the human element that relates to the erosion of values all round, though I personally feel that the education system owes it to itself to try to correct this erosion in values. But, nevertheless, it is a time-consuming process and one cannot expect it to take effect suddenly. It is a complicated problem. But, I think, we should be determined to come to grips with it. Otherwise, just like a cancer, it will get into our entire system.

Power Generation Target

*44. †SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the additional power generation target for Seventh Plan is being scaled down significantly ;

(b) if so, whether this would result in continuing power shortages at the end of the Seventh Plan;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to remedy the situation; and

(d) whether Government expect capacity utilisation also to improve during the Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) Additional generating capacity of the order of 22,245 MW is proposed to be installed in the Seventh Plan; this target is not likely to be scaled down.

(b) and (c) A number of steps are being taken to meet the power shortages. These include measures to ensure timely completion of on going projects, reduction

in line losses, improved capacity utilization, energy conservation and effective demand management. A comprehensive Renovation and Modernisation Programme has been formulated which will contribute towards improvement in the generation of existing thermal station.

(d) Yes, Sir.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Q. No. 54 is also connected. It may be taken up together. Both are part and parcel.

MR. SPEAKER : It will come up later on. Mr. Sinha.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know what was the proposal which was made by the Ministry to the Planning Commission regarding addition of generating capacity during Seventh Plan.

Sir, from the reply it appears that Government have decided to add 22,245 MW. Now, Sir, during the Sixth Plan the target was 19,000 MW and the achievement was only 14,000 MW. According to this, it appears, we will have to add 4,000 MW per year. This has not been achieved at all during the last 30 years. So, what is the ground on which they feel that they will be able to achieve this additional to capacity of 22,245 MW ? It has been stated that certain measures have been taken to ensure 'timely completion of on-going projects'. What are those specific measures ? Which are those projects ? How are you going to reduce cost over-run ?

It is my information that several projects which are in Bihar for instance, like Kati Thermal power and Koelkaro projects, their cost overrun is of the order of 100 to 200 per cent. What are the specific measures that you propose to take to reduce this and to ensure completion of these projects on time ? I would also like to know what extensive measures are being taken to reduce the transmission losses because our information is, the transmission losses are very high, as high as 20 per cent and this is due to theft and technological difficulties. I would like the Minister to specifically tell us what special measures he proposes to take.

MR. SPEAKER : Too long.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : Sir, I am out numbered when hon. Members from Bihar and Bengal have asked the questions. In both cases there has been a maximum delay as far as projects are concerned. As the situation stands, the Working Group...

MR. SPEAKER : Put your weight behind it, Sir !

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : Sir, the capacity addition was roughly 30,595 MW. This is what we proposed. The Planning Commission has so far cleared 22,245 MW. The discussions are still going on with the Planning Commission. We have additional capacity coming in the shape of our gas turbines which we are setting up and I would not say that this figure of 22,245 MW is a constant figure at the moment. We are still making efforts, we are trying various hydro-electric projects for bilateral financing as an addition and we are very confident that we will come with a figure between 22,000 MW and 30,000 MW.

Regarding power projects I would like to give a categorical assurance that in the Seventh Plan no Central power projects will be delayed. Most of them are coming on time. The problem which is really coming up is of the States. If you want, I can give you individual examples. A thermal project which is supposed to come in 5 to 6 years is taking 10 to 15 years. A hydro-electric project which should come in 7 to 10 years take some time like 10 to 15 years. At the moment for the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 we would be generating additional capacity, of 4000 to 5000 MW. But we are taking up the matter with the States and in fact in many cases we have recommended to them that their financial allocations to their projects must be total because what is happening is, a State is starting too many projects not giving full allocation and hence the projects are being delayed. So, we are taking up this matter with each individual Chief Minister and we are discussing this, and we are very hopeful that in the years 1985, 1986 the 9000 MW capacity which is going to be added will mostly and largely come on time.

Sir, in regard to transmission losses, the transmission losses today are about 20 per cent. We feel that transmission losses should not exceed at the most 10 to 14 per cent. There is a great deal of power theft taking place and on this we have taken very stringent measures with all the States. I think it should be appreciated that the State Electricity Boards are run by the State Governments. So, as far as the Centre is concerned, we can only give suggestions in this regard and in certain States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and in Delhi for the past few months a great deal of effort has been made to curb the power theft. So, the overall situation is that as far as the allocation of funds for the Power Department is concerned, if we have only 22000 MW, we will run short. There is no denying the fact. But in today's situation and what we are forecasting five years hence, there is a shortage of power to the extent of 7000 MW, but out of that in the past few months due to increased plant load factor we had a five-point increase. We will reduce the gap to about 4000 MW at the moment.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Sir, in the answer it has been stated that a comprehensive Renovation and Modernisation programme has been formulated which will contribute towards the improvement in the generation of existing thermal station. May I know from the Minister if it is possible to justify the various measures that have been taken to improve the performance of the thermal power stations because it would include also the coal supplies and the Railways' capacity to carry the coal to the thermal power stations ?

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : Sir, we have Rs. 500 crore scheme in the Seventh Plan for modernisation. But if you ask the basic reason why the plant load factor has gone up and why it should not go up in future, I think, the basic point is really management. Wherever we have had effective management, the results have been very good. There have been some problems with coal. They still persist. But there is no point in talking about it consistently. We are asking for a quality of coal which we just do not have. Railway movements have been satisfactory. In

fact, both railway movement and the availability of coal in the last couple of months have been a record. Because of the higher plant load factors, we have not built up our stock. But the major reason for increasing the plant load factor is proper maintenance and basic management.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether during the course of the formulation of the Seventh Five Year Plan, the estimated allocation to the power sector has been fluctuating and has now come down from the original amount of approximately Rs. 68,000 crores to about Rs. 35,000 crores. That is, there has been about almost 50% cut. If that is a fact, then on what basis is the Minister so confident that the actual additional capacity which will be added by the end of the Plan will be not only 22,000 mw but as he is hoping, something considerably more?

It is not only a question of over all shortage but is also a question that different regions and different States in the country are suffering from very sharp differences in the availability of power. In an overall Plan like the Seventh Plan which is a very ambitious Plan, whether it is gearing mainly the private sector or the public sector, I am not concerned just at this moment...

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY : Let it be given to the joint sector.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Yes, may-be. You are capable of doing anything. Why is it to the joint sector? Well, power can be handed over to the private sector also!

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY : For the joint sector, you have shown the way in West Bengal.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Which sector it may be, I hope Mr Mukherjee is as concerned as other people are in West Bengal.

At the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, the short-fall between the demand and the supply will be going up. The demand is going to rise. You have increased the gap between the demand and

the availability which will be there at the end of the Plan, from what it is now. If it increases, then that is a bit of sad commentary on planning. The gap should be reduced. It may not be reduced very drastically but it should be reduced. It should not be increased.

So, I would like to know what is the latest projection because it is on power ultimately the whole development of the country depends; industry, agriculture and everything now depends on the further development and availability of power without which nothing can be done.

I would just like to know from him what is the great difficulty now in implementing the idea of national grid which we have talked about so many times. Is it the obstruction by the State Governments? Is it the mutual rivalry and jealousy that they do not want to part with any of their power for national grid? What is this? Why does the Seventh Five Year Plan not categorically say that the national grid will be brought into existence during the next five years?

I would like to know from him.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : Sir, the allocation to the Ministry of Power, in the Seventh Five Year Plan, as the hon. Member rightly said, has been very drastically cut. But, as I said, the ongoing projects in the Seventh Plan have not been affected. The largest slice which is going to be cut off is on the projects which we are going to start for the Eighth Plan. Now, roughly with 21,800 mega watt, we would start for the 8th Plan, because as you know, the gestation period for the thermal plant is 5 years to 7 years and for hydro-electric project, it may be anything between 7 years and 10 years.

Now this figure of 21,800 MW has been scaled down to 4,200 MW. This is really the largest slice.

The second area where there has been a substantial out is on transmission and distribution. What we have proposed was 22,000 MW and there we are getting only 8,800 MW.

As a result of the cumulative effect of all these things, our assessment today is that

there are two aspects. One is the generating aspect and the other is load distribution and transmission aspect. It is our assessment that most of the States are in trouble in transmission system. But as far as the existing projects go, as far as the capacity for 22,000 MW go, that will not be affected. But as I said earlier, if we do not get this money, all our plan projects are going to be affected.

SHRI INDRA JIT GUPTA : The gap is more or less as it is now.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : I am just coming to that. Currently the gap today is about 5,000—7,000 MW. If we go strictly by the figure of 22,000 MW, that gap is not going to increase. But we feel that in the Seventh Plan period, the gap will get reduced with the increased in the plant load factor. If we go through the averages on plant load factor, for the period April-March we had a total of 50,000 MW and that we had a record generation in the months of December, 1984 and in January and February and March this year. But already this year, we are averaging at 53,000-54,000 MW. So, an additional plant load factor spread over a capacity of 45,000-50,000 MW will give us an additional 2,500-3,000 MW of power generation. I do not think there will be a larger shortage at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. But there will be major complications in the Eighth Five Year Plan because, all these projects had to start now and if we do not have the funds, we cannot start the projects for the Eighth Five Year Plan.

SHRI INDRA JIT GUPTA : What about the national grid?

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : The simple problem is we do not have the money.

KUMARI D K. THARA DEVI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government has laid greater emphasis on the development of micro, mini, hydro-electric schemes during the Seventh Five Year Plan in order to benefit the remote areas. If so, how many schemes will be taken up in Karnataka, which are there schemes?

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : The matter is still under consideration with the planning

Commission. The over-all constraint of funds is there and we have given certain schemes but they have not been approved.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : As far as existing thermal power stations are concerned, the common problem is that they are all betchina in smoke and creating pollution problems. I believe that somewhere around Rs. 200 crores was to be allocated for existing thermal power stations to instal electrostation precipitators. I am not sure whether this amount is enough. I am also not sure whether this amount is sanctioned. What does the Government plan to see that these existing thermal power stations—there are two in front of us in Delhi and they are spread all over the country—are given adequate funds for installing electrostatic precipitators to prevent this hazard.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : They will get adequate funds, in fact.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just now told us in his reply that power plants based on gas will be set up during the Seventh Five Year Plan. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the reserves of natural gas in Bombay High are sufficient to feed six gas based fertilizer plants besides help in setting up of gas based power plants? What will be the quantum of gas required for it and how much additional power capacity will be created?

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : I shall need notice for that.

[*Translation*]

Opening of New Kendriya Vidyalayas in States

*45. **SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state the names of the State Governments which have submitted demand for opening Kendriya Vidyalayas in their States?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : According to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, the following

State Governments/State Government functionaries have proposed the opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas in their States :

- (1) Assam
- (2) Bihar
- (3) Himachal Pradesh
- (4) Kerala
- (5) Meghalaya
- (6) Madhya Pradesh
- (7) Orissa
- (8) Rajasthan
- (9) Uttar Pradesh

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which this demand would be met.

SHRI K. C. PANT : The demand is enormous, both from the civil sector and the defence sector as also from the project sector. The demand for Central Schools goes on increasing, but we do not have funds to meet the entire demand.

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : There has been very little expansion of education in the hill areas and, as such, whenever there is any interview, our children trail behind. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government propose to open Central Schools in Himachal Pradesh, and the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Naturally, I have sympathy with the hill areas, but the scheme of Central Schools is meant for the wards of the Central Government employees and the question of general education should not be linked with it. It has a specific purpose.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Gauhati Inland Container Depot

*46. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) by what time the Gauhati Inland Container Depot will start functioning ;

(b) whether the Railways Department and the tea industry have reached an agreement for the successful commissioning of the said Inland Container Depot; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Inland Container Depot at Amingaon Gauhati is likely to be commissioned this year.

(b) and (c) No formal agreement is entered into between the Railways and the users of the Inland Container Depot. However, the process of consultation between the Railways and the representatives of various interests like the tea trade, Tea Association of India, State Government of Assam, Customs, Port etc has already been completed and their points of view taken into consideration.

Sinking of Dredger at Paradip Port

*47. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING & TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to sinking of the dredger at Paradip Port, the future development of this port became uncertain;

(b) if so, the measures taken so far by his Ministry to avoid the uncertainty mainly because of this incident;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted to find out the causes in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to clear the entrance channel and maintain dredging of the port ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, A preliminary enquiry has been ordered by the Director General

(Shipping) under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

(d) The report is awaited.

(e) Entrance channel to Port was not blocked by the sunken Dredger. Chaunel is clear for navigation. Dredging Corporation of India have deployed another dredger at Paradip.

Posting of Working Women

***48. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether she is aware that after a recommendation of the National Committee on International Women's Year, in 1976 regarding the necessity of posting government employee, husband and wife team, together Circular No. 3-265/75-WW dated 28 February, 1976 was issued by the Department of Social Welfare to all Ministries of the Government of India, asking them to make all possible efforts to post husband and wife team together;

(b) whether she is also aware that this Circular now has become almost a dead letter and sympathetic consideration is often not given to the applicants in their postings;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of women employees are put to great difficulty and are even forced to resign after marriage and child-births became their husbands are posted at other stations; and

(d) if so, whether her Ministry propose to issue a fresh Circular in this regard and monitor the implementation of the same with the other departments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDU LAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No specific cases of resignation have come to the notice of this Ministry. However, requests for assistance are occasionally received from husbands/wives for posting of husband-wife team at the same station.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Foreign Shipping Companies Affecting Indian Trade by Charging Less and Carrying More from Indian Ports

***49. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:** **SHRI SRI HARI RAO :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Foreign Shipping units charge less, carry more" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 20 June, 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that due to foreign shipping companies charging less and lifting sizeable cargo from Indian ports, a deep dent has been made in our sea borne trade;

(c) the details of the foreign shipping companies which are charging less and lifting sizeable cargo;

(d) whether Government propose to review the position keeping in view the trend of foreign shipping companies; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER 'OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) The share of the Indian Lines in the overall import export trade of the country during the years 1980-81 to 1983-84 was as follows :

Year	Total sea borne imports and exports.	Exports and imports carried by Indian vessels. (in million tonnes)	Percentage of cargo carried by Indian vessels to total cargo.
1980-81	74.93	24.21	32.30
1981-82	77.36	24.27	31.37
1982-83	77.76	32.24	41.46
1983-84	75.79	30.96	40.85

There was a marginal decrease in the share of Indian flag vessels during 1983-84

as compared to 1982-83. This was mainly due to a decrease in the volume of imported foodgrains which is Government cargo purchased on f.o.b. basis and thus has a high percentage of Indian flag participation. However, the overall picture is that during the two years 1982-83 and 1983-84 the percentage of cargo carried by Indian vessels has been much higher than in earlier years.

(c) The details of the foreign shipping companies which are charging less and lifting sizeable cargo are not available as the practice of rate cutting is kept as a closely guarded secret by these companies for obvious reasons.

(d) and (e) The following measures have been taken to help Indian Shipping Companies :

1. With a view to ensuring greater share of cargo for Indian vessels India has entered into bilateral shipping agreements with USSR, Poland, GDR, Bulgaria, Egypt, Czechoslovakia and Pakistan which provide for parity in cargo liftings and freight earnings.
2. There are standing instructions to Public Sector Undertakings/Government Departments to negotiate as far as possible, C & F exports and FOB imports. These are designed to maximise cargo availability to Indian Lines.
3. Share of Indian Shipping lines in the carriage of iron-ore exported by MMTC has been brought up from 25% in 1983-84 to 35% in 1984-85 through successful negotiations.
4. The use of foreign flag vessels in the oil trade has been brought down by arranging acquisition of suitable tankers for Indian shipping companies.
5. With a view to encourage use of Indian vessels it has been decided that (a) the freight paid shall not be debited to the face value of import licence if the ocean freight is paid in non convertible rupees in India and the goods are carried on Indian vessels and (b) the exporters will be given

Replenishment licence on exports in question at the rate of 11% if the goods are exported on Indian vessels as against the normal rate of 10%.

6. The position regarding utilisation of Indian ships is reviewed from time to time by a Standing Committee consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport, concerned Government Departments and Public Sector enterprises.

Funds Allocated for Development of Minor Ports during Seventh Plan

*50. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any funds have been allocated in the Seventh Plan for the development of minor ports in the country; and

(b) if so, details thereof particularly with reference to the development of minor ports in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The Seventh Plan is yet to be finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Factories Raided to Detect Adulteration of Spices

*51. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of factories raided in Delhi to detect adulteration of spices during the months of May and June and the outcome thereof;

(b) the action taken against those who were found guilty of adulteration and the number out of them who were bailed out; and

(c) what stringent action has been taken against the adulterators ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) In the month of May and June 1985 two factories engaged in grinding of spices were inspected and a total of 14 samples were lifted. 12 samples have been found to be not conforming to the standards.

(b) and (c) The cases of these 12 samples declared not conforming to the standards laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 are under pre-prosecution investigations. After investigation is completed action will be taken as per provisions of P.F.A. Act and Rules made thereunder.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Shipping Companies from Shipping Development Fund Committee

*52. **SHRI S.M. GURADDI :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the functioning of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) has come to a stand still;

(b) whether the financial assistance provided to the various shipping companies during the last two years has resulted in discrimination and mushroom growth of private companies without the necessary skills and reserves; and

(c) if so; whether Government propose to issue proper guidelines to streamline the financial assistance to shipping companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z R. ANSARI) : (a) No, sir.

(b) No, sir. Financial assistance to private shipping companies is given only after a thorough examination of the proposal of the company by Executive Director, Shipping Development Fund Committee and Director General of Shipping, which is then discussed in the meeting of Shipping Development Fund Committee. The recommendations of Shipping Development Fund Committee are further examined in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and

Ministry of Finance, before final sanction is issued. The appraisal made by Shipping Development Fund Committee and Director General of Shipping covers the aspects of managerial skill and financial resources available in the shipping company. There has been no discrimination in the matter of providing financial assistance to the shipping companies as financial assistance is provided on the basis of needs of the company after an analysis of the cash-flow position of the company by Shipping Development Fund Committee. The fact whether a company should be allowed to undertake shipping business or not, is also looked into by Shipping Development Fund Committee before according permission.

(c) The financial assistance to be given to shipping companies is regulated by provisions of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and Shipping Development Fund Committee Rules. A committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Shipping and Transport) has recently (June 1985) reviewed the arrangements for assistance to shipping companies. No decision has been taken by Government on these recommendations.

Advance Courses in Electronic Science by Universities

*53. **SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :**
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the universities in the country have failed to start advance courses in electronic science inspite of Government's directive to the University Grants Commission;

(d) the reasons for University Grants Commission's failure to implement such courses in the Universities; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K C. PANT) : (a) The University Grants Commission had, in May 1984, advised 3 universities to start a Master's level course in Electronics Science and 7 universities to start a one-year post-B.Sc. diploma course in the same subjects. One

of these universities has started both the courses in 1984-85.

(b) and (c) The courses have to be introduced by the universities concerned after making the necessary preparation. The question of any failure on the part of the UGC does not arise.

Energy Conservation

*54. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) in the context of shortage of energy, whether Government are considering ways and means to conserve energy and to step up its availability for the Core Sector ;

(b) whether Government are carrying out a study to identify areas/Industries/Offices for saving energy;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(d) how much energy is likely to be conserved/made available ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir. Conservation of energy will increase availability of energy to the Core and other Sectors.

(b) A number of government agencies including Standing Group on Conservation of Electrical Energy under Central Electricity Authority, Petroleum Conservation Research Association, Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Utilization and Conservation of Energy under the Ministry of Industry and Advisory Board on Energy, have examined the potential for energy saving in the various sectors.

(c) The schemes aim at developing/improving operating practices and equipments in the various energy intensive sectors, including industrial, transport and agricultural sectors.

(d) According to present indications the potential for conserving energy in the industrial sector is approximately 25 per cent, in transport sector about 20 per cent

and in agricultural sector approximately 30 per cent of the existing levels of consumption.

Recruitment of DTC Drivers and Conductors

*55. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to change its policy in the matter of recruitment of DTC Drivers and Conductors;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARY) : (a) to (c) Government has not received any proposal in this regard from the Delhi Transport Corporation.

Development of Inland Water Transport in Kerala during Seventh Plan

*56. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for the development of Inland Water Transport in Kerala during Seventh Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) A scheme for development of Neendakara-Cheriyazheekal Waterway was sanctioned in January, 1972 at an estimated cost of Rs 48.00 lakhs under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. With regard to New Schemes, no decision has so far been taken as the 7th Five-Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

Financial Assistance, Loss Incurred and Performance of D. T. C.

*57. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance provided to the Delhi Transport Corporation by Government since 1981-82, year-wise;

(b) the losses incurred by the Corporation since 1981-82, year-wise ;

(c) the reasons for such losses which are increasing every year ;

(d) the details of measures taken to check the losses and improve the perfor-

mance of the Delhi Transport Corporation during the period; and

(e) the results achieved through these measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z R ANSARI) : (a) to (e) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The financial assistance by way of loan provided to the DTC since 1981-82 (year-wise) is as follows:-

Particular of of loan	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
a) Capital Loans	1285 15	2548 00	1529 00	1999 00
b) Way and Means Loans	2000 00	2660 00	4300.00	6241.00

(b) The working loss and the net loss of DTC for the years 1981-8 , 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 are given hereunder:-

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	Working loss (excluding depreciation & interest charges.	Depreciation charges	Interest charges and penal interest etc.	Net loss working loss plus depreciation plus interest charges
1981-82	1938 62	556.11	2397 56	4892.29
1982-83	3188 04	753 32	3407 57	7348.83
1983-84	4594 85	869.18	4647.57	10111 60
1984-85	6683.20	1022 38	6373.50	14079.08

(c) & (d) The DTC losses are mainly due to low and static fare structure despite increasing cost of operation due to increasing costs of various inputs. In the absence of generation of internal resources, the Corporation is not in a position to repay the loan instalments and consequently tax liability is adding on to the total losses.

Delhi Transport Corporation has, however, taken steps to improve its operational

efficiency by better fleet utilisation economy in fuel consumption, timely maintenance, better utilisation of manpower, proper inventory control and financial discipline. Steps have also been initiated to reassess the fare structure and convert the loan into equity and thus reduce the interest liability.

(e) As a result of the measures taken, physical performance of DTC has improved as is evident from the following data:

	June, 85	May, 85	June, 84
i) Fleet Utilisation (%)	85.57	83.34	81.33
ii) Daily Earning (Rs. in lakhs)	19.38	18.52	18.21
iii) Passengers Carried (in lakhs)	37.90	35.77	36.88
iv) Earning Per Bus daily (Rs.)	418	413	412

[Translation]

Consultations with the Associations of Industries Regarding New Education Policy

58. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation to the effect that Associations of Industries should also be consulted while formulating the Education policy; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) The Government have not received any representation from the Associations of Industries in this regard. Many valuable suggestions have, however been received and these are being considered very carefully. It has also been decided to hold consultations with all concerned including the representatives of Trade, Industry, Commercial Houses, Foundations, Associations and voluntary organisations involved in education, before finalising the New Education Policy.

(English)

Import of Body Scanners

*59. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how many Body Scanners were imported;

(b) what is the foreign exchange paid for the import of these body scanners; and

(c) whether any body scanner has been given to Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B SHANKARANAND) : (a) The Government has not imported any whole Body Scanners so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

World Bank Loan for Power Projects

*60. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank approved recently loan of 300 million Dollars for Power Plants in the county;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount available for each of them;

(c) whether Government intend to approach the World Bank in respect of any other irrigation or power projects for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) A loan of U. S. Dollars 300 Million was approved by the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank in May, 1985 for the Chandrapur Thermal Power Station Extension Project of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

(c) and (d) The following Irrigation and Power Projects have been posed for possible Bank assistance :

Irrigation Projects :

- (1) Narmada Sagar Project (Madhya Pradesh)
2. A.P. Composite Irrigation II Projects (A. P.)
- (3) Sone Canal Modernisation Project (Bihar)
- (4) Bihar Public Tubewells Project (Bihar)
- (5) Cauvery Delta Modernisation Project (Tamil Nadu)
- (6) National Water Management Project.

Power Projects :

- (1) National Capital Region Thermal Project (NTPC)
- (2) Kalinadi Stage II Hydroelectric Project (Karnataka)
- (3) Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project (NHPC and Himachal Pradesh)
- (4) Gas Turbines at Kawas, Sawai Madhopur and Auraiya (NTPC)

Loss to Railways in Freight Traffic

415. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the 'Economic Times' dated 28 June, 1985 that poor offerings by the steel and coal sectors in the first two months of the current financial year has resulted in a loss to railways of 1.26 million tonnes of freight traffic; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the targets fixed for the current financial year and how far there is possibility to achieve its objects ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the current financial year 1985-86 the target for revenue earning freight traffic has been fixed at 250 million tonnes. Despite the shortfall in offering of traffic from the core sector during the first quarter, Railways are trying to achieve the target.

Bankura-Damodar Rail Line

416 SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether West Bengal Government have sent any proposal for the development of Bankura-Damodar Railway line; and

(b) if so, at what stage the proposal is lying at present ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. West Bengal Government in their Memorandum given to Railway Convention Committee (1980) suggested conversion of Narrow Gauge line from Bankura to Rainagar (Bankura-Damodar River Railway) into Broad Gauge.

(b) The proposal has not been accepted.

Collision between Truck and Goods Train at Unmanned Level Crossing between Quasimpur Khore and Baraut Railway stations

417. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a collision between a truck carrying a marriage party and a goods train on 25-6-1985 evening at an unmanned level crossing between Quasimpur Khore and Baraut Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and injured as a result thereof;

(c) whether earlier also accidents have taken place at this very crossing;

(d) if so, details of such accidents during the last 3 years and the number of persons killed and injured in those accidents; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to prevent accidents at that level crossing ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five persons were killed and 32 injured

(c) and (d) During the last three years only one accident took place at this level crossing on 9-2-1985 when a bus collided with a Goods train. In that accident the bus conductor sustained simple injuries.

(e) This is an unmanned level crossing. Proper visibility for engine Driver and the road user has been ensured. Whistle boards are provided. A census of the traffic at this level crossing was conducted in the first week of April 1985. According to the census, this level crossing did not justify manning. Commissioner of Railway Safety also inspected the level crossing on 3-7-1985.

Difficulties in Getting Admissions in Delhi University

418. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the number of students who are seeking admission in Delhi University to undergraduate courses ; and

(b) the facilities extended by Government for the admission of the students ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION : (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) Yes,

Sir. During 1985, a total of 41,226 students have passed higher secondary examination from Delhi with 40% or more marks and have qualified for admission to various undergraduate courses. As against this, the University can admit 24,878 students to various full-time undergraduate courses, 11,500 to Correspondence Courses and 3020 students to the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board. Accordingly 39,398 students would be able to seek admission to various programmes of Delhi University and its Colleges, leaving a marginal shortfall of about 1800 seats only. The overall facilities thus available are considered, by and large, adequate to meet the higher education needs of students qualifying from Delhi.

Per Capita Power Consumption

419. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the national average of per capita power consumption; and

(b) State-wise per capita power consumption during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) The national average of per capita power consumption during 1983-84 was 154.06 units (Kwh).

(b) State-wise per capita power consumption during the years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 is indicated in the statement below :

Statement

Annual per capita consumption of electricity in different States during the years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84

		(utilities + Non-utilities in KWH)		
Region	State/U. Ts.	1981-82	1982-83*	1983-84*
Norther Region	Haryana	237.74	257.88	245.45
	Himachal Pradesh	69.08	74.78	88.93
	Jammu and Kashmir	89.22	105.65	104.71
	Punjab	300.51	337.33	354.44
	Rajasthan	101.28	103.86	126.26
	Uttar Pradesh	88.81	102.30	103.07
	Chandigarh	384.35	394.08	386.35
	Delhi	416.51	461.16	467.34
Sub-Total		130.57	145.54	151.24
Western Region	Gujarat	249.32	256.83	274.19
	Madhya Pradesh	106.92	120.10	136.94
	Maharashtra	247.18	248.78	267.00
	Goa, Daman & Diu	223.96	243.12	279.26
	D & N Haveli	70.09	80.55	86.07
	Sub-Total	198.67	205.59	223.52

Region	States/U. Ts.	1981-82	1982-83*	1983-84*
<i>Eastern Region</i>	Bihar	84.61	86.46	90.51
	Orissa	125.78	117.56	135.38
	West Bengal	122.50	124.36	123.02
	A.N. Islands	50.47	56.90	63.19
	Sikkim	60.57	48.47	51.64
Sub-Total		105.32	105.35	109.88
<i>Southern Region</i>	Andhra Pradesh	118.06	134.34	142.42
	Karnataka	165.92	168.04	166.24
	Kerala	119.58	121.16	113.36
	Tamil Nadu	193.70	183.56	178.05
	Pondicherry	253.43	242.09	222.41
	Lakshadweep	36.00	44.50	57.79
Sub-Total		151.66	154.65	153.93
<i>North Eastern Region</i>	Assam	39.90	40.63	42.20
	Manipur	9.24	13.33	12.77
	Meghalaya	45.84	52.06	68.74
	Tripura	18.08	17.44	20.60
	Arunachal Pradesh	19.13	22.94	26.76
	Mizoram	12.29	19.36	25.30
	Nagaland	31.98	36.42	48.87
	Sub Total	35.64	37.02	39.80
Total—All India		141.27	147.69	154.06

Provisional

**Eastern Railway's Non-participation
in Railway Football Competition
held at Colombo**

420. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details and reasons for not allowing the Eastern Railway, which is the Railway Champion of India, to participate four nations Railway Football Competition held at Colombo recently ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : A statement is given below.

Statement

During March, 1984, an invitation was received from the Sri Lanka Government Railways inviting Indian Railways to participate in M. H. Mohamed Gold Cup Football Tournament to be organised by them in August, 1984. The Tournament was postponed thrice first to January, 1985, then to June, 1985 and was finally fixed from 2nd to 15th July, 1985.

The position was reviewed in May, 1985, and, keeping in view our domestic commitments, our inability to accept the

invitation on revised dates was conveyed to the Sri Lanka Government Railway.

Subsequently, a request was received from the Eastern Railway Sports Association on 21st June, 1985, seeking permission to participate in the same tournament commencing on 2.7.1985. The permission was not granted as Eastern Railway, being a part of the Indian Railways, was equally involved in domestic commitments.

Free First Class Travel for Journalists

421. SMT. BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for free first class travel for journalists ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Theft of Power

422. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether theft of power is committed from various power stations in the country ;

(b) if so, the percentage of power theft to the total power production ;

(c) whether steps are being taken by the Government to stop the theft of power ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) and (b) The theft of energy takes place in the distribution systems either by tampering of the energy meters or by direct connections from the distribution mains. During the year 1983-84,

the total transmission & distribution loss in the country including power theft was 20.86%.

(c) and (d) The following measures have been suggested to the State Electricity Boards / Electricity Departments for reducing power thefts :

- (i) Setting up of vigilance squads comprising State Electricity Board engineers and police to conduct surprise inspections.
- (ii) Provision of cut-outs after the meters to prevent direct tapping of power.
- (iii) Use of zig-zag and numbered seals on the meter terminal cover and cut-out and to keep an account of seals to detect fake seals.
- (iv) Provision of potential links inside the body of the energy meters instead of under the terminal cover to prevent tampering of meters.
- (v) Use of PVC multi-core cables as service mains instead of single core VIR wires to make direct tapping very obvious.
- (vi) Comparing monthly meter readings of industrial consumer with those of other similar consumers with a view to detecting significant variations in consumption.

Power Production in Gujarat

423. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for power generation in Megawatts in the State of Gujarat during the Sixth Five Year Plan and the extent to which this target has been achieved;

(b) the power requirement in Megawatts in Gujarat during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of the concrete steps to be taken to meet this requirement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) Against the target of additional generating capacity of 1175 MW, the

actual achievement during the Sixth Plan period was 950 MW in Gujarat. This included one unit of 110 MW at Sabarmati (Ahmedabad Electric Company), whose commissioning was advanced from the Seventh Plan to the Sixth Plan.

(b) As per the Report of the 12th Power Survey Committee, the peak load requirements in Gujarat by the end of the Seventh Plan would be 4038 MW.

(c) Projects which are under execution in the State are likely to yield benefits of 1085 MW during the Seventh Plan.

[English]

Grabbing of Railway Land in Saurashtra

424. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report appearing in the Blitz dated 25 May, 1985 regarding the alleged grabbing of Railway land in Saurashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following are the salient points from the news report appearing in the weekly newspaper Blitz dated 25th May, 1985.

(i) That vast areas of Railway land released in the wake of the conversion of the line from metre gauge to broad gauge from Viramgam to Okha and Porbandar have been grabbed in Saurashtra particularly in Rajkot, Surendranagar, Wankaner, Jamnagar areas ;

(ii) That the building and adjoining land of the Lakhajinagar station, on the outskirts of Rajkot, closed down in 1980 have been grabbed by anti-social elements. Similar situation exists in places like Surendranagar and Wankaner; and

(iii) That apart from the land, there has been pilferage of the Railway material which were dismantled from the Railway lines and the Railway property has remained unguarded inspite of the presence of Railway Protection Force.

(c) The above complaint was investigated and the factual position is given as under :-

(i) As a result of the conversion of 400 Kms. of the Railway line from metre gauge to broad gauge on Viramgam-Okha-Porbandar section, approximately 53 hectares of land was released;

(ii) Adequate steps were taken to prevent encroachments on the land released as a result of conversion but in view of certain areas being close to crowded places in the city, where law and order position was difficult, an area of about 0.227 hectare has been encroached upon. However, eviction proceedings have been initiated in all the 68 cases involved in this encroachment and the cases for eviction are in progress before the Estate Officers of the Railway and the Civil Courts.

(iii) The old metre gauge Lakhajinagar station near Rajkot was closed as a result of the above conversion and the old station building is being converted into 13 Type-I staff quarters. A part of the area of the old station premises (about 0.0821 hectare) has been encroached upon, for which eviction proceedings are in progress.

(iv) At Surendranagar, Wankaner and on the abandoned alignment of Morvi-Tankara narrow gauge line, no illegal godowns have been constructed by outsiders. There are, however, 18 encroachments, against which eviction proceedings have been initiated.

(v) There was no theft of permanent way materials in the year 1982. In 1983, 7 Heel blocks and 43 Distance blocks costing Rs. 302/- were stolen. In 1984, 20 Nos. 9OR second quality rails costing about Rs. 48,000/- were

stolen. However, the police have recovered the rails and they are in police custody pending further investigations. The Railways are fully conscious of the problem of encroachments on the released land as a result of the conversion as well as the safety of property and materials. Necessary preventive steps have been taken to safeguard Railway's interest.

National Power Grid

425. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a national power grid transmission centre ;

(b) if so, the purpose of setting up of such transmission centre; and

(c) when such centre is going to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have under consideration the proposal to set up a National Power Grid and a National Load Despatch Centre.

(b) The purpose of setting up a National Power Grid is to integrate the power systems to enable optimum utilisation of the available power resources and to arrange exchange between surplus and deficit States from time to time.

(c) As several complicated issues have to be examined carefully in consultation with other Departments, it is not possible to indicate the time limit for establishing the National Power Grid.

[Translation]

Rail Link from Maksi to Dewas

426. SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of Government to provide rail link between Maksi and Dewas (Madhya Pradesh) ;

(b) whether the Ministry had conducted any survey in this connection in the past; and

(c) if so, the time by which Government propose to commence work on this rail line ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Scheme Prepared by Indian Medical Council for Holding of All India Medical Examinations

427. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Medical Council has in response to the directive issued by the Supreme Court prepared a scheme for holding an All India Medical examinations for under-graduate and post-graduate medical courses in the Medical Colleges;

(b) whether the State Governments have been contacted to accept the Scheme prepared by the Indian Medical Council; and

(c) whether the scheme is likely to be enforced in the next academic year ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

Suggestion of Transport Policy Committee for De-Congestion of Towns in Kerala by Constructing Bye-Passes

428. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major towns in Kerala like Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Calicut, Palghat etc. are going to face a crisis due to heavy congestion of traffic;

(b) whether the Transport Policy Committee had made any suggestions for decongesting these towns by constructing bye-passes;

(c) if so, whether any plan has been formulated in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The NTPC have made a number of suggestions for development, maintenance and financing of roads in the country as a whole. They have not specifically suggested the construction of bye-passes for de-congesting but have advised that strict measures should be taken by the State Govts and local authorities against encroachment by shops, workshops and even dwellings over the land abutting highways, which also reduce the effective road width. But there the available land width is inadequate for improvement of the roads, construction of bye-passes may consideration.

(c) and (d) *Trivandrum Bye-pass* : Land acquisition for a part length of 20.5 kms (0.5 to 20.5) has been sanctioned for Rs. 205.07 lakhs. The acquisition is in advanced stage. The survey work for fixing the alignment for the remaining length of 22.5 km of this bypass is in progress. Further one estimate for road formation between km. 11.900 to 13.079 has also been sanctioned for Rs. 36.94 lakhs to provide access to the Airport and the work is in progress.

Ecnakulam, Cochin Bye-pass : The various works on this bye-pass of 16.70 km. length have been completed except construction of the Kumbalam Aroor bridge and its approaches, viaducts on either side of the railway over-bridge near Ponnuruni and its approaches and approaches to panangad Kumbalam bridge. These remaining works are targetted to be completed by December, 1987.

Calicut Bye-pass : The alignment has been finalised and approved.

Palghat Bye-pass : This has been formed and is already in operation.

Capitation Fees Charged by Technical Institutions

429. **SHRI D. K. NAIKAR :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the introduction of capitation fee for admission to technical institutions in some of the States, has created frustration in the minds of the poor people :

(b) whether the Government propose to abolish the same by bringing suitable legislation banning the capitation fee; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c) The Government of India are aware of the serious situation created by a number of private engineering colleges and technical institutions in certain States which charge capitation or high fees or take donations for purposes of admission to the engineering and technical courses offered by them. In order to deal with this problem, the University Grants Commission Act has already been amended. Under the amended Act (1984), the Commission is empowered to prescribe fees to be charged by any college for a course of study from a student in connection with his admission. The Act also provides for prohibiting the institutions charging higher fees than prescribed.

Increase in Holidays for Open Line Staff

430. **SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it was agreed in the Departmental Council meeting in the Ministry of Railways held on 6 December, 1984 to increase the number of holidays from 9 to 12 days for Open Line Staff;

(b) if so, whether any order has been issued by the Railway Board in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Primary Health Centres in Andhra Pradesh

431. **SHRI M. KAGHUMA REDDY :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres that existed in Andhra Pradesh by the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan and the number expected in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the total funds allotted for Health and Family Welfare programme in Andhra Pradesh in the Seventh Plan for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : As per available information 480 Primary Health Centres were functioning in Andhra Pradesh as on 1-4-85 i.e. at the end of Sixth Plan period. During the VII plan discussions a target of establishing 1150 Primary Health Centres was proposed for Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The State-wise allocations of funds in the Central Sector for Health and Family Welfare Programmes have not yet been finalised

Construction of a Hotel at Haldia by the Calcutta Port Trust Authorities

432. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will be Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a hotel at Haldia by the Calcutta Port Trust Authorities; and

(b) if so, details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Short-Fall in Freight Traffic

433. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that major portion of railways revenues comes from movement of freight traffic ; and

(b) the likely shortfall in freight traffic as a result of shortage of wagons ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Despite some shortfall in offering of traffic by the core sector during the first quarter and shortage of wagons etc., the Railways are trying to achieve the budget target of 250 million tones of revenue freight traffic for 1985-86.

Unreserved Compartments of Gomati Express

434. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Ruffian Rule' appearing in the 'Patriot' dated 17 June, 1985 with regard to unreserved compartments of Gomati Express at New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken against such elements who occupy berths and prevent genuine passengers from getting it ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Report is of a general nature and does not call for any specific enquiry.

(d) A team consisting of ticket checking & RPF staff & GRP personnel has been deployed for carrying out frequent surprise checks with regard to such malpractices & apprehending/prosecuting delinquent persons. During the period January to June, 1985 as many as 958 persons were apprehended under Sections 122 & 109 of the Indian Railways Act & fines amounting to Rs. 12,967 were realised from them. In addition, 418 persons were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment due to default in payment of fine. These checks have had a considerable impact on the activities of antisocial elements

Introduction of New Catering Service in Trains

435. SHRI R.M. BHOYE :

SHRI HARISH RAWAT :

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD

SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have introduced a new catering service for the travelling public;

(b) whether it is also a fact that economy, variety and reasonable cost are the hallmark of the new catering programme introduced on a limited basis in trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) With a view to provide hot and tasty food in hygienic condition at reasonable tariff to the passengers on the Indian Railways, the service of revised pattern of menu in disposable aluminium casseroles has been introduced in consultation with India Tourism Development Corporation on some selected trains w e f 1.6.1985. To start with, the service of revised menu was introduced on 81/82, 103/104 Deluxe Expresses and 191/192 Magadh Express train on the Howrah-New Delhi route. As the response of the clientele on these trains was favourable to the new service, the same, with slight modifications in the items in the menu, was extended to 25/26 Deluxe Express and 3/4 Frontier Mail w e f 1.7.1985 on the Bombay—New Delhi route also. In view of the favourable response of the public, the service of the revised pattern of menu is likely to be extended further to cover some more important trains in future. Varieties of the meals and their tariff are as shown below :—

<i>Item in the Menu</i>	<i>Tariff in Rs.</i>
1. Economy Meals	Ranging between Rs 2/- and Rs. 3
2. <i>Standard Meals Breakfast</i>	
(a) Vegetarian	5.00
(b) Non-vegetarian	5.50

3. *Lunch/Dinner*

(a) Vegetarian 6.00

(b) Non-vegetarian 7.00

4. *Special Meals (only lunch/dinner)*

(a) Vegetarian 7.00

(b) Non-vegetarian 13.00

5. *Standard Snacks*

(a) Vegetable Cutlets 3.00

(b) Vegetable Sandwiches 3.00

Water-Borne Diseases in Rural Areas

437. SHRI LALA RAM KEN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that water borne diseases are the main cause of ill-health in rural areas ;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating or arrangements have been made to include Chlorine-water purification tab, lets in the Kit being provided to every Village Health Guide to enable them to purify drinking water in their respective villages;

(c) whether 'Chloroscope', a cheap and best modern method devised by NEERI to access the potability of drinking water in our rural areas, is being provided to every village Health Guide; and

(d) if so, details thereof and how quickly these preventive measures will be implemented at this ideas is being considered for the last so many years without practical action ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) It is true that water-borne diseases, especially diarrhoeal diseases are one of the main causes of ill-health in the rural areas.

(b) At the present moment Chlorine tablets are not provided in the village Health Guide Kits. However, State Governments have been advised to provide them separately to the Village Health Guides.

(c) 1000 chloroscopes have been supplied to the village health guides in selected areas on an experimental basis to gauge its efficacy.

(d) In order to provide safe water supply facilities in the identified problem villages the Central Government initiated the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARP) in 1977-78 which had continued during the 6th plan and provision has been made for the Programme in 1985-86 also. As per report furnished by the State Government, a total of 192024 problem villages have been provided with at least one source of safe drinking water supply during the 6th plan. In addition the Centre has also requested the various States to provide additional funds under the Minimum Needs Programme to improve upon the performance in this sector.

Decline in Meningitis and Value Imported Vaccines

438. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that meningitis is on the decline;

(b) whether it is a fact that our medical research has failed to keep ahead of times and fulfil the needs of the country as other countries are doing; and

(c) whether it is a fact that meningitis vaccine is being imported from the West Germany, U.K.... U.S.A. and if so, details of imports and value thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In fact the major emphasis of all medical research has been towards development of simple and field suited methods of diagnosis, treatment and control of various diseases.

(c) Six lakhs doses of meningococcal vaccine have been procured through WHO and distributed to the State Governments Institute/Hospitals for vaccinating identified high risk groups.

New Process to Check Spreading of Malaria

439. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some new processes have been adopted to check the spreading of malaria; and

(b) if so, what are the new processes developed by the scientists to check malaria in the malaria prone areas ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an Integrated Disease Vector Control strategy with emphasis on source reduction, minor engineering works, biological control using the larvivorous fishes, chemotherapy health education and environmental improvement, is being carried out on an experimental basis in one district of Gujarat by the Malaria Research Centre of the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Development of Cochin Shipyard during Seventh Plan

440. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for the development of the Cochin Shipyard during the Seventh Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Certain proposals for the development of Cochin Shipyard were considered by the Working Group set up by Government for the formulation of VIIIth Five Year Plan on Shipbuilding and Shiprepair Industry. Since the content and size of the VIIIth Plan have not yet been finalised the picture will be clear only after finalisation of the overall VIIIth Five Year Plan and detailed economic and financial viability of such schemes.

Increasing Power Generation

441. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission have expressed concern over the poor achievement in creating new power generation capacity;

(b) whether Government, with its commitment to increase capacity in power generation permit private agencies like Bombay Suburban Electric Ltd. and other similar agencies to generate power; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) The aspect of poor achievement in creating new power generation capacity was mentioned in the mid-term appraisal of the Sixth Plan document of Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) The present policy is regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. Under this Resolution, generation and distribution of electricity falls under Schedule 'A' which includes category of industries, the future development of which will be the exclusive responsibility of the State. The Resolution, however, does not preclude the expansion of the existing privately owned units or the possibility of the State securing the cooperation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units when the national interests so require. Under this Policy, Govt. have allowed replacement/expansion of units in the existing privately owned utilities.

Shortfall in Family Planning Targets and Corrective Steps

442. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a serious shortfall in family planning targets and if so, what corrective steps are proposed to be taken;

(b) whether the plan for IUD insertions is being stepped up ;

(c) whether there has been significant progress for practical application and safety of anti fertility immune bodies developed at the AIIMS and if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the county's entire progress is being jeopardised in the absence of successful implementation of population control programme and if so, whether this programme will be taken up on a war footing and fully computerised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) Development and population control interact in a mutually beneficial way. Family Welfare Programme has therefore, been accorded a high priority in the overall socio-economic development planning. During the Sixth Five Year Plan achievement of family planning targets was around 80%. The Programme will be further strengthened during the 7th Plan and its monitoring will be computerised. The IUD Programme received a big step up from 6.28 lakhs in 1980-81 to 15.46 lakhs in 1984-85. Immunological approaches to fertility control are still at an experimental stage.

Repair of Roads in Delhi

443. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the condition of most of the Delhi roads is very bad; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken for the immediate repair of all such roads in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) No, Sir, Road in Delhi are generally in good condition.

(b) The maintenance and repairs of roads is a continuous process and it is carried out from time to time as necessary depending upon availability of funds.

Supply of Anti-Rabic Vaccines to Zonal Railways

444. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Serum Institute of India

is supplying Anti-Rabic Vaccines injections of 1 millilitre instead of 14 injections of Semple's vaccine of 5 millilitre;

(b) whether the Railway Board have made any arrangement to supply such Anti-Rabic Vaccine 6 injections of 1 millilitre as supplied by the Serum Institute of India to the Zonal Railways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) No, Sir. For general prophylactic purpose, Semple's vaccine produced by the various State Pasteur Institutes is still being used. In special cases where there is any overwhelming danger, the Chief Medical Officers of the Zonal Railways are free to use the Human Diploid vaccine sold by M/s Serum Institute of India.

(c) The continued use of Semple's vaccine has still been considered as adequate in most cases. This has been the opinion of the Anti-Rabic Haffkine Research Institute, Bombay whose opinion was obtained in the matter.

Hydro Power Potential in Sikkim

445. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey of Hydro-power potential in Sikkim;

(b) if so, what is the potential; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to do so in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per latest estimates of Central Electricity authority, the hydro-electric potential of Sikkim is 1 28 million KW.

(c) Does not arise.

Incidence of Guinea Worm in Rajgarh and Guna Districts of Madhya Pradesh

446. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of high incidence of guinea worm in Rajgarh and Guna districts of Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) if so, whether the Union Health Ministry has taken any steps to eradicate the incidence of guinea worm ;

(c) if so, what are the plans and when are they going to be implemented ; and

(d) if not, does the Health Ministry has any plans to do so ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has already initiated the National Guinea worm Eradication Programme in the 7 endemic States including Madhya Pradesh. The following activities are carried out under the programme :

(a) Provision of safe water supply to the guineaworm endemic villages/hamlets on a priority basis by the Rural Water Supply Department.

(b) Health education to promote personal prophylaxis.

(c) Chemical treatment of step wells to eliminate the intermediate host i.e. cyclops.

(d) Treatment of patients at the PHCs.

(e) Active case search twice in a year to monitor the impact of control measures.

The guineaworm disease is expected to be eradicated by the end of Seventh Plan period.

(d) Does not arise.

Plan for Laying of New Lines and Extension of Existing Lines

448. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a plan to either lay new lines or extend the existing ones in the country to promote national integration and develop backward regions ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how many proposals are pending with Government to lay new lines or extend the existing ones and with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Laying of new lines and extension of existing ones are taken up based on the following criteria :

- (a) project oriented lines to serve new industries or tap mineral and other resources ;
- (b) to serve as missing links which can form alternative routes to relieve congestion on existing busy routes ;
- (c) on strategic considerations ; and
- (d) as developmental lines to establish new growth centres or give access to remote areas. In such cases, a lower rate of return than stipulated for normal projects may be agreed to but it will not be advisable to take up new railway lines which cannot meet operating costs including contribution to depreciation.

A few projects have, however, been taken up in the North Eastern Region, as a special case, with the idea of fostering National Integration of the people of these isolated areas with the rest of the country.

(b) There are 46 on-going new line projects in progress, including 7 projects in the North Eastern Region, the details of which are given in Railway Budget 1985-86. The Planning Commission, have, however, not agreed to the taking up of the new lines from Sultanpur to Rewa and Tamluk to Digha. Further, the Planning Commission have also not so far accorded their clearance for new lines from Budge Budge to Namkhana including Lakshmikanthpur-Kulpi line, Satna to Rewa & Guna to Etawah.

Surveys are also in progress for a number of new lines as per details given in Demands for Grants of Railway Budget 1985-86. Further action on these will be taken on completion of surveys depending on availability of resources and in consultation with the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Conversion of Chandrapur-Gondia Line into Broad Gauge

449. **SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to convert Chandrapur-Gondia (Maharashtra) line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by what time the work is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Stoppage of Bombay Janata Train at Ahraura Station

450. **SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any demand from the people of Mirzapur District for the stoppage of Bombay Janata train at Ahraura Railway Station;

(b) whether the train used to stop at Ahraura Railway Station earlier; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to restore the stoppage of that train at Ahraura Railway Station ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Railway Lines for New Bombay

451. **SHRI S. G. GHOLAP :**

SHRI D. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned the Railway lines for new Bombay ;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the each project and what is the progress ;

(c) whether it is a fact that out of Rs. 2 crores sanctioned for the project of new railway lines, Rs 1.5 crores was diverted to Madras Railway Project ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) whether atleast one Rail Project will be completed immediately for new Bombay ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes Sir, Extension of Line from Mankburd to Belapur has been approved.

(b) Rs. 75.74 crores at 1980 price level. Physical progress of work till June 1985 is 2%.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. However the initial allotment of Rs. 2 crores for 1985-86 has since been restored.

(e) The completion of the Project will depend upon the availability of funds in the coming years.

Providing Stoppages of Executive Express at Important Stations in Pathanathitta and Alleppy Districts of Kerala

452. **PROF. P.J KURIEN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Executive Express running between Ernakulam and Trivandrum does not stop at important stations in the Pathanathitta and Alleppy Districts of Kerala; and

(b) whether Government propose to provide stoppages of this train at stations in Pathanathitta and Alleppy Districts

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Issue of 'Manad' Railway Passes

453. **SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in U.P. who have been issued first and second class railway 'Manad' passes since 1 January, 1985;

(b) the criteria for issuing these passes; and

(c) whether it is proposed to issue railway passes on the recommendations of M.P.'s ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Presumably by 'Manad' Passes the Hon'ble Member of Parliament means Complimentary Card Passes issued to Non-railwaymen/Organisations by the Ministry of Railways. Details of these passes are not maintained Statewise but by individual names only;

(b) These passes are issued with the personal approval of the Minister for Railways, based on merits of each case.

(c) Recommendations made by M.P.s for issue of complimentary passes are considered on merits.

Complaints Regarding Acceptance of Bribe for Reservation of Seats

454. **SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints regarding acceptance of bribe for reservation of seats in the Indian Railway are on the increase ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, for detecting and rooting out corrupt practices, full-fledged Vigilance Organisations exist on all the nine Zonal Railways, as also in the Ministry of Railways. Apart from investigation into specific complaints, the Vigilance Organisations, on their own, undertake a large number of preventive checks. Staff found guilty of corruption and malpractices are issued deterrent punishments.

[English]

Indian Ships Missing

455. DR G. S. RAJHANS :
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD : Will the Minister of
SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased
to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Mystery shrouds two missing Indian ships" appearing in Indian Express dated 4th July, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the possible reasons which contributed to the missing of the above two ships; and

(c) what efforts has been made by Government to locate the ships which are missing since June 21, 1985 and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANS-
PORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a)
Yes.

(b) On available information, it is not possible to state any definite reasons contributing to the sinking or disappearance of these ships.

(c) On receipt of information about the two missing ships, Indian Navy and Coast Guard vessels carried out intensive search operations. Services of the air wing of the Navy were also utilized. The search and rescue operations have, however, not yielded trace of these vessels. A formal investigation under Section 360 of the Merchant Shipping Act has been ordered.

**Production Capacity of Chittaranjan
Locomotive Works Under-Utilised**

456. SHRI CHINTAMANI
PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of
RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether under-utilisation of production capacity of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works has come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for its capacity utilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the VIth Plan the capacity of diesel and electric locomotives manufacture at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works was 475 locomotives. However, the manufacturing targets were set at 459 locomotives based on funds allocation by the Planning Commission.

The actual production was 419 locomotives which is 91.3% of the target.

(c) Efforts were made to find alternate activities for full capacity utilisation like re power packing of diesel locomotives, Periodical overhaul of diesel locomotives, and increased supply of spares for maintenance of locomotives. With this the gap between available capacity and its utilisation was largely closed.

During the VII Plan, it is proposed to utilise the full capacity subject to availability of funds.

**Study of Ground Water Resources
in Kasai and Subarnrekha River
Basins**

457. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD
SETHI : Will the Minister of IRRIGA-
TION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has taken up a project to study the availability of ground water in the Kasai and Subarnrekha river basins;

(b) whether the study has also covered the area in the tribal and drought-prone regions of Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by Government for providing ground water in hard rock areas to meet the irrigation and drinking water needs of the tribal population ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION
AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARA-
NAND) : (a) The Central Ground Water Board with the assistance of UNDP has taken up a project for the assessment of ground water potential and preparation of

plans for further development in an area of 29,700 sq. kms. in Kasai and Suberna-
rekha river basins in the States of Bihar,
West Bengal and Orissa.

(b) The studies in the project would cover tribal areas of Ranchi and Singh-
bhum districts in Bihar, Mayurbhanj
district in Orissa and tribal and drought
prone districts of Purulia, Bankura and
Midnapur in West Bengal.

(c) Recommendations are made on
locations of prospective areas for ground
water development and dugwell and tube-
well sites to the State Governments.

Replacement of Overaged Railway Coaches

458. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI
KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS
be pleased to state :

(a) the number of over-aged railway
coaches which required replacement at the
end of 1983 and 1984;

(b) how many of the coaches needing
replacement were removed from the tracks
during 1983 and 1984; and

(c) the number of the new coaches
manufactured during 1983-1984 and how
many of these coaches were actually utili-
sed for the replacement of over-aged coaches
stating the reasons for not utilising all
the coaches manufactured during 1983-84 for
replacement of old coaches ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
BANSI LAL) : (a) 2035 Passenger carrying
vehicles of all gauges required replacement
at the end of 1983-84;

(b) 779 Passenger carrying vehicles
of all gauges were condemned during
1983-84;

(c) 1159 new coaches were manufactured
during 1983-84. Out of these 943 coaches
were utilised for replacement of over-aged
coaches and balance were utilised for
augmentation of the old services and
introduction of new trains.

Loss to DTC due to Increase in the rate of Hire Charges of Private Buses

459. SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Will
the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANS-
PORT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for increasing the rate
of hire charges of private buses plying
under D. T. C.; and

(b) the total loss D. T. C. will incur
because of the said increase ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANS-
PORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : The hire
charges in respect of private operators' buses
under DTC which were last fixed effective
August, 1981 have been since revised up-
wards effective September, 1984 taking into
account the increase in the operational
costs.

(b) The additional expenditure conse-
quent upon increased rate of hire charges
is of the order of Rs. 1.01 crores and
Rs. 2.15 crores for 1984-85 and 1985-86
respectively.

National Power Grid

460. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will
the Minister of IRRIGATION AND
POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Govern-
ment decided to form a national power
grid corporation to regulate a proposed
regional and national power grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI
ARUN NEHRU) : (a) to (c) A Working
Group was set up by the Government to
study the various aspects of transmission
of power and to work out the details and
modalities leading to the establishment of
a Centrally-owned National Power Grid.
In its report the Working Group has
recommended the setting up of a National
Grid Corporation to oversee the transmis-
sion and distribution of power.

(Translation)

Introduction of a Train between Lucknow and Chopan via Varanasi and Changing the Route of Assam Mail and Tinsukhia Mail

461. SHRI MADAN PANDEY :
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a train between Lucknow and Chopan via Varanasi;

(b) whether Government are also considering changing the existing route of Tinsukhia Mail and Assam Mail so as to run these trains via Gorakhpur and Lucknow;

(c) if so, from which date; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Railways do not have coaches to introduce a new train. Tinsukhia & Assam Mail are well patronised on the present route and hence diversion would not be desirable.

[English]

Howrah Bridge

462. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :
Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "CPT concern about damage to Howrah Bridge" appearing in the Calcutta edition of the Statesman, dated 6 June, 1985;

(b) if so, whether 100 feet of the railing of the bridge has recently been stolen;

(c) if so, what action has since been taken to end this type of vandalism;

(d) whether RITES had conducted a survey along with other consultants regarding the present condition of the bridge;

(d) if so, details of the recommendations;

(f) whether the recommendations have been implemented; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A total length of 23 metres pipe runners of the railing between the carriage way and footpath of Howrah Bridge was stolen in the night of 12/13th May, 1985. Regular patrolling of the Bridge at night is now being done by State police personnel

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir, survey for the 1st phase of the study is in progress. Some recommendations are expected to be available after two out of the three phases of the study have been completed.

Expansion Plan of Cochin Shipyard during Sixth Plan

463. SHRI V S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :
Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a plan for the expansion of Cochin Shipyard during the Sixth Plan;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plan has not been implemented;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken to implement the expansion plan of the Shipyard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes.

(b) The schemes included in the Sixth Five Year Plan mainly related to extension of quay/additional quay and expansion programme.

(c) and (d) As the ship repair facilities were commissioned only in 1981, and the original project, in all respects, was completed only in 1984, it was pre-mature to make further investment on any new schemes until such time as Production stabilised and system lacuna were identified.

(c) Certain proposals, for expansion of shipbuilding/ship repair facilities of CSL were considered by the Working Group set up by Govt. for the formulation of VIIIth Five Year Plan on Shipbuilding and Shiprepair Industry. Since the content and size of the VIIIth Plan have not yet been finalised, the picture will be clear only after finalisation of overall VIIIth Plan and the detailed economic and financial viability of such schemes.

Hubli-Karwar Rail Link

464. SHRI D.K. NAIKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that official survey has been conducted twice in respect of Hubli-Karwar rail link;

(b) whether the reports reveal that the project is feasible and viable in the present circumstances having regard to development of Karwar and Industries of Karwar; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to construct Hubli-Karwar rail line at least in 1986-87 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) Surveys have been conducted in the past in 1964, 1973 & 1977 for construction of a line between Hubli and Karwar, but each time the project was found to be financially not viable. The project was therefore, deferred. A further Reappraisal Survey has been ordered to take into account the latest developments. After the Report of the Re-appraisal Survey is received and examined, a decision regarding construction of the line will be taken, subject to clearance by the Planning Commission.

Daily Lunning of Delhi-Jodhpur, Delhi-Ahmedabad and Ahmedabad-Mandor Superfast Trains

465. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the difficulty being experienced in running the Delhi-Jodhpur, Delhi-Ahmedabad and Ahmedabad-Mandor Superfast trains daily; and

(b) the time by which these trains are proposed to be run daily for the convenience of the passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Railways do not have coaches and diesel engines to run these trains daily.

(b) There is no proposal to this effect.

Norms Followed for Inviting Tenders for Laying of New National Highways

466. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms being followed for inviting Tenders for construction of new National Highways;

(b) whether Government are trying to eliminate Indian contractors from construction of new National Highways by inviting global tenders; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c) Constitutionally, the Government of India are responsible for roads declared as National Highways. The execution of works, however, rests with State P.W.Ds and the tenders for execution of such works are invited by State P.W.Ds according to the prevailing rules. Recently, in case of six projects being financed by the World Bank to an extent of 200 million U.S. Dollars, the World Bank has stipulated that the tenders for execution of these works should be put to international competitive bidding. The Indian contractors bidding for such projects will, however, be offered 7.5% price preference.

Transportation of Sugar to Various States

467. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have been directed to accord top priority to sugar movement;

(b) if so, whether a comprehensive plan has been worked out to move one million tonnes of imported sugar to the various parts of the country;

(c) whether it has been decided that sugar should be transported, even if it has to be at the cost of some other commodities;

(d) if so, to what extent the railways accorded top priority for transportation of sugar after directive was issued; and

(c) whether any special wagons were provided for movement of sugar to various States ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir;

(c) and (d) Movement of levy sugar is given priority 'B' in the preferential Traffic Schedule which is the highest priority after military traffic and hence is given priority in movement over other commodities.

(e) No, Sir.

Container Movement between Gauhati
Inland Container Depot and Calcutta Port

468. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what will be the transit time of container movement between Gauhati Inland Container Depot and the Calcutta Port both loaded and empties;

(b) the agency responsible for any delay or damage in transit;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme in this matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The transit time will be approximately six to seven days for both loaded and empty containers.

(b) to (d) Such cases will be dealt with by Railways in accordance with the extant rules. No new guidelines have been issued. Railways will ensure transit within a reasonable time.

Cancellation of trains in Gujarat since
January 1985

469. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA ;
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of trains in Gujarat has cancelled since January 1985 and particularly in Baroda District;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the people of that area are pressing for restoring these services ; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (d) Due to various reasons like heavy rains; water logging, derailment, non availability of engines and engine failure, 1684 trains were cancelled/partially cancelled in Gujarat area during the period 1. 1. 85 to 15. 7. 85 including 1592 N.G. trains cancelled/partially cancelled on Vadodara Division. As a matter of policy; manufacture of steam locos has been stopped and available services are required to be maintained with the help of existing resources. Dieselisation of N.G. sections would have to be viewed along with the broader questions of availability of resources and priorities. Western Railway has been exhorted to maintain these Narrow Gauge services within their existing resources to ensure that cancellation of trains is avoided.

Overall Shortage of Seats in Delhi
University Colleges

470. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the overall shortage of seats in Delhi University colleges ;

(b) whether no student scoring less than 55 per cent marks could hope to get admission in any course of Delhi University; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken by Government to combat this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c) During 1985, the total number of students who have passed higher secondary examination from Delhi with 40% or more marks and have thus qualified for admission to various undergraduate courses of Delhi University and Colleges is 41,226. As against this, the University can admit 39,398 students to its various full-time undergraduate courses, Correspondence Courses and the programmes offered by the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board. There will, thus, be a marginal shortfall of about 1800 seats only. The overall facilities available are considered by and large, adequate to meet the higher education needs of students qualifying from Delhi.

Import of Bogies from Abroad

471. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :**

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are not placing fresh orders to the wagon building industry;

(b) if so the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that efforts are being made to import several thousand bogies from abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Railways are currently considering importing, with a view to updating technology, a few types of modern bogies, for comparative service trials in India.

Electrification of Gauhati-Siliguri and Baroi-Radhikapur Sections

472. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry is contemplating any proposal for massive railway electrification programme in the N. E. Frontier Railway specially from Gauhati to Siliguri and Barsoi to Radhikapur zones during Seventh Plan ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Electrification of railways is a capital intensive work and the investment is incurred by priority on sections which have the highest traffic density. The present priorities for electrification are to cover the trunk routes on Delhi-Bombay, Calcutta-Bombay and Delhi-Madras Sections and some other important routes for movement of coal, iron ore, etc. In view of the above and constraint of resources and low traffic density on sections on North-east frontier Railway, there is no proposal to electrify these sections.

Objectives for Conversion of Samastipur-Barabanki-Lucknow Line into B. G.

473. **SHRI MANIK SANYAL :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what were the main objectives of conversion of Samastipur-Barabanki-Lucknow metre gauge line into broad gauge and construction of a broad gauge line in the North-Eastern Railway, in details;

(b) whether the said objectives were materialised on completion of the projects; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Conversion of Samastipur-Barabanki MG line into a Broad Gauge line on North Eastern Railway was taken up mainly to provide a through B.G. line with a view to eliminate/reduce the quantum of transshipment which was heavy and to provide a system, which is more

efficient. Further it would facilitate speeding up of traffic due to higher speeds.

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) Does not arise.

Electrocution in Delhi

474. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that three Members of a family were electrocuted in Jahangirpuri in North Delhi on 10.6.1985 because of falling down of the conductor in LT feeder due to the storm;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to check the recurrence of such events in future; and

(c) whether any compensation has been paid to the bereaved family, and if so, is the compensation adequate and will details thereof be laid on the Table of the House ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To check the recurrence of such events in future, over-head system of electric supply is being provided with adequate guards and the weak points are being attended to by Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, in addition to the routine maintenance work.

(c) An interim payment of Rs. 15000/- has been made to the bereaved family, pending the completion of statutory enquiry being conducted by the Electrical Inspector of Delhi Administration.

[Translation]

Grant of Foreign Scholarship to Indian Students

475. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian students who received scholarships of Commonwealth and other countries during the last two years

separately and their break up as the wards of Government employees and private employees indicating the criteria of giving these scholarships; and

(b) the names of the countries which have given scholarships to these students ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The number of Indian students who received scholarships offered by Commonwealth and other countries was 172 during 1983-84 and 168 during 1984-85. The break-up according to wards of Government employees and private employees is not available, since in the prescribed format for inviting applications there is no column relating to father's/guardian's name, occupation etc.

The criteria vary according to the terms and conditions of the offers made by different foreign countries, but generally scholarships are for Ph.D. and post-doctoral studies, for which the minimum requirements are a Master's degree with 60 % marks or more, two years' teaching/research/practical experience and the age not exceeding 35 years. The scholarships are open to all and selection is made on merit. Applications are invited through newspaper advertisements and circulars and the final selection is made through interviews conducted by a Selection Committee constituted for the purpose.

(b) U. S. S. R., German Democratic Republic, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Japan, U. S. A., Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey, Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, France, Austria, Netherlands, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Italy, Norway, China, U. K.; Canada, Australia, New Zealand.

[English]

Stringent Guidelines for Foreign Scholars' visit to India

476. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether new guidelines have been issued making it more stringent for foreign scholars to visit India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c) The instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time in regard to the procedure to be observed in respect of foreign scholars visiting India under various programmes have recently been consolidated to facilitate easy reference and brought to the notice of Vice-Chancellors of all universities/deemed universities, etc., for their guidance/compliance.

Meerut-Jind Rail Line

477. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that people of bordering areas of U. P. and Haryana have been facing great difficulty for want of rail line from Baghpat to Jind via Sonapat and Gohana;

(b) whether taking into consideration the difficulties faced by the public of bordering areas of both the State, Government propose to include a new rail line from Meerut-Baghpat-Sonapat-Gohana-Jind which will minimise the mileage for going and coming to both the States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal for undertaking survey/construction of Meerut-Jind rail line at present, in view of the severe constraint of resources and very heavy commitments already in hand.

Continuance of Railway halts and Stoppages Economically not Viable

478. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway halts and stoppages economically not viable are being continued; State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) how many such halts have been abolished during 1984-85; and

(c) the steps taken to make them economically viable ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Computerised Reservation System in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras

479. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to computerise the reservation system in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Computerisation of berth and seat reservations in Delhi area has been taken up as a Pilot Scheme at a cost of Rs. 11.87 crores. The work is already in progress. On successful implementation of the system, similar arrangements will be made in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. It has been estimated that an expenditure of Rs. 30 crores will have to be incurred for computerising reservation in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

[Translation]

Colleges in the Vicinity of Outer Delhi Villages

480. SHRI BHARAT SINGH : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no college in the vicinity of villages like Najafgarh, Bawana, Kutabgarh of outer Delhi as a result of

which rural students have to face great inconvenience and they have to go to the city which takes a lot of time; and

(b) whether Government propose to make arrangements for opening new colleges for these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K C. PANT) : (a) According to the information furnished by the Delhi University, there is no College in the vicinity of these villages. Students from these areas at present join the Rajdhani College, the Shivaji College, the S P Mukherjee College for Women and the Swami Shradhanand College, which are nearer to these villages.

(b) There is at present no proposal to open new Colleges specifically for these areas.

[English]

Electrification of Vijayawada New Delhi Rail Line

481. **SHRI V. SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) The amount allocated in the Seventh Plan for electrification of Vijayawada-New Delhi line and the amount earmarked for 1985-86; and

(b) by what time this line is expected to be electrified ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Amount required in 7th Plan Rs. 276.46 crores

Amount earmarked As 51.16 crores in 1985-86

(b) 1988-89.

Singda Dam Project in Manipur

482 **SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Singda Dam Project in Manipur could not make any headway during the last three years because of labour troubles inside

the NPCC which is incharge of the construction;

(b) whether the Government of Manipur had taken up the matter with the Centre; and

(c) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) The progress of work at the Singda dam project had been adversely affected during the last three years mainly on account of inadequacy of funds, the time taken in negotiations for revision of rates and the delay in finalisation of designs and drawings. There were only some minor labour problems during the last 3 years which, however, did not affect the progress of work at the Project.

(b) and (c) The Government of Manipur had at no stage during the last three years taken up with the Central Government the question of labour troubles inside the NPCC impeding the progress of this Project.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification in Bihar

483 **SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of schemes received for approval from Bihar by the Rural Electrification Corporation during 1984-85;

(b) the number of schemes, out of them, approved so far and of those still pending; and

(c) the time by which the remaining schemes would be approved and the number of villages likely to be electrified under these schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) 164 schemes were received by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) from Bihar during 1984-85.

(b) 91 schemes have been approved so far, 46 schemes were rejected/referred back to the State Electricity Board and 27 schemes are pending with the REC.

(c) The pending 27 schemes, which envisage electrification of some 1200 villages, are expected to be considered for sanction during the current financial year, keeping in view the availability of funds.

[English]

Irrigation Potential lying Unutilised

484. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether as such as five million hectares of irrigation potential is lying unutilised, as reported in the Economic Times issue dated July 5, 1985;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to utilise this resource; and

(c) whether Government will consider imposing penalties on potential users who refuse to utilise irrigation provided at their door steps ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) About 5 million ha. of irrigation potential is lying unutilised by the end of the Sixth Plan period and the following measures, among others, have been taken to remedy the situation;

- i) A Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme has been taken up for an integrated development which includes construction of field channels and field drains, land levelling and land shaping, introduction of warabandi, promoting conjunctive use of surface and ground water, organising the supply of inputs and credit facilities, etc.
- (ii) Construction of water courses from 40 ha. block outlets to 5 to 8 ha. block outlets in on-going projects and inclusion of similar provision for completed projects in modernisation schemes.
- (iii) Modernisation of completed irrigation systems, as necessary, in a phased manner.

(c) Irrigation being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to consider the necessary steps in this regard.

[Translation]

Power Project along Chambal River

485. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to construct any power project along the fast flowing Chambal river in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to construct some Power Projects to ensure intensive development around Morena; and

(c) if so, by what time and what will be the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) to (c) At present 3 hydro-electric schemes namely Gandhi Sagar (5×23 MW); Rana Pratap Sagar (4×43MW) and Jawahar Sagar (3×33 MW) on the Chambal river are already under operation. In addition, a project proposal for Chambal Right Bank Main Canal (3+0.31 MW) in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh has recently been sanctioned by the Planning Commission. The construction period of the project is 3 years and on completion it will afford an annual energy generation of 5 Gwh.

[English]

Containerisation

48. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised and implemented containerisation for ships after examining its full impact vis-a-vis work habits, work attitudes of our employees;

(b) whether this would improve our productivity in relation to the high costs involved;

(c) whether any studies have been conducted so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Impact of containerisation on work habits and work attitudes of employees is being continuously evaluated by concerned agencies such as ports, shipping lines etc and required changes/modifications brought about gradually. Shipping Corporation of India has finalised its containerisation programme after taking into account these factors.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The relevant studies regarding investment vis-a-vis productivity and returns are carried out by concerned organisations responsible for their respective activity like shipowners for ocean transportation, Railways for land transportation, Port for terminal handling facilities etc Shipping Corporation of India had carried out studies through I. M. O. consultants as well as "in house" studies before changing over from conventional and combi services to full container services.

Blacklisting of Drug Companies Manufacturing Sub-Standard Drugs

487. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to black list all those drug companies who have been found manufacturing sub-standard drugs for more than three times; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Polytechnic for Development of Blind Entrepreneurs

488. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country's first ever polytechnic for the development of blind entrepreneurs has been set up by the Industrial Development Bank of India and National Association for Blind;

(b) if so, the name of the place where such polytechnic has been set up;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more number of such polytechnic in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b) The National Association for the Blind, Bombay has set up a polytechnic for the blind at Ambernath (Maharashtra) in collaboration with the Industrial Development Bank of India.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Programme for Reconstruction of Railways during Seventh Plan

489. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to undertake the programme for the reconstruction of Railways;

(b) if so, the schemes included in the reconstruction programme;

(c) whether those programmes are going to be implemented during the Seventh Plan; and

(d) the details of the amount earmarked for implementing those reconstruction programmes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) Rehabilitation/modernisation of Railways is a continuing process. Rehabilitation/modernisation involves improvements to rolling stock and locomotives, traction, track, maintenance infrastructure, signalling and communication.

(c) and (d) Investment in the Seventh Plan will be directed in the areas mentioned above, and the amount will depend upon the allocation for the Railways in the Seventh Plan.

**Pollution Threat to Villages around
Badarpur Thermal Power Project**

490. SHRI D.B. PATIL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that because of coal handling in open at Badarpur Power House run by the National Thermal Power Corporation the nearby village Molad Band is covered with a mantle of Coal-dust that is affecting the health and economy of the village; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by National Thermal Power Corporation to stop the nuisance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) Whenever the quantum of fine dust in the coal supplies is more and the direction of wind is towards the Molarband village, the dust tends to move towards the village.

(b) The Station authorities and National Thermal Power Corporation are seized of the problem and have taken the following steps :

- (i) Periodical discussions with coal authorities to limit the fines in coal supply.
- (ii) Water spraying at the time of unloading of coal and at the transfer points on the conveyor system.
- (iii) Erection of an enclosure at the unloading point to minimise spreading of the coal dust.
- (iv) Extension of unloading chutes to control the emission of dust from the stockyard.
- (v) Plantation of trees along the boundary of the Power Station to provide a natural screen between the Power Station and the village and periodical

interaction with the village residents to monitor the situation.

**Delhi-Alwar Rail Line via Sohna and
Ramgarh**

491. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan for providing rail line from Delhi to Alwar via Sohna, Nuh, Firozpur Zirka, Nogawa, Ramgarh;

(b) whether any survey has been carried for this purpose; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Bye-Passes in Uttar Pradesh

492. SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the places in Uttar Pradesh in respect of which schemes to construct bye-passes have been sanctioned in Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the basis on which schemes for the construction of bye-passes are sanctioned out of the proposed schemes for the purpose;

(c) when was the Faizabad bye-pass scheme in Uttar Pradesh sanctioned and the time by which the construction work is likely to be started on it; and

(d) the name of the other places in Uttar Pradesh where Bye-pass schemes have already been sanctioned indicating the dates of sanctioning them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The Seventh Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised.

The schemes for construction of bypasses will be decided after the Plan is finalised.

(b) Construction of bye-passes become necessary when the urban links through which the highway passes are considered unsuitable for further improvement on account of narrow width of the roadway and heavy congested traffic. Schemes are selected based on their relative priority keeping in view the volume of traffic and the funds available for the purpose.

(c) The alignment of Faizabad bye-pass on National Highway No. 28 in Uttar Pradesh was approved in 1971. Since then the land has been acquired. Due to insufficient allocation of funds as against overall

requirements for removal of existing deficiencies on National Highways in the Country, construction of bypasses including Faizabad bypass was given lower priority in the 5th and 6th Five Year Plans.

However, the work for the construction of Phase-I works (earthwork and culverts) of this bypass now stands included in the Annual Plan 1985-86. The construction work will start after the estimate for the same is sanctioned.

(d) The other places in Uttar Pradesh where bye-passes have been sanctioned and the dates of their sanction areas under :-

	Name of the Place.	Date of Sanction.
(i)	Shahjahanpur bypass on National Highway 24.	4.8.1980.
(ii)	Construction of Kalpi Bypass on National Highway-25 (Shivpuri-Bhognipur Section)	5.2.1981.
(iii)	Khaga Bypass on National Highway-2.	4.5.1984.
(iv)	Land acquisition of Varanasi Bypass on National Highway-2.	29.8.1984.
(v)	Fatehpur bypass on National Highway-2.	21.11.1984
(vi)	Sitapur Bypass on National Highway-24.	23.11.1984.

[English]

Dieselisation of Amaravathi-Guntur Express

493. SHRI D.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to dieselise the Amaravathi-Guntur Express this year ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : No, Sir.

[Translation]

Railway Freight Concession for Booking Rakes

494. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government gives some concession in the Railways freight for booking a full rake; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the concession is given ?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) A lower trainload classification has been provided in the Railway Freight Structure for certain commodities moving in bulk, such as, food-grains, salt, coal, ores, cement, lime stone, petroleum products, iron or steel etc. subject to the fulfilment of conditions prescribed for applicability of trainload classification. The extent of concession for trainload movements varies from 2.6% to 13.3% depending on the commodity offered for booking.

[English]

Finance for Power Projects

495. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether efforts to prune the Seventh Plan for the power sector by nearly 50 per cent the Government are considering to give top priority for the power sector from bilateral and multilateral assistance; and

(b) if so, by what time foreign aid will be sought to assist the power projects during 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) and (b) The Seventh Plan is in the process of finalisation and is yet to be approved by the National Development Council. The question of seeking bilateral/multilateral assistance for power projects would depend on the merits of each proposal.

Scholarship to Monk Students

496. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether hundered of monk students coming from Ladakh in J&K, Lahaulspiti and kinaur of Himachal Pradesh, Tawang areas of Arunachal and Sikkim State who have been specializing in Buddhist Culture and literature particularly Tibetan literature in Various monasteries in Karnataka in South India and Varanasi etc. in U. P. have been requesting the Ministry for grant of scholarships; and

(b) if so, whether the scholarships have been sanctioned and if not, whether the Government propose to provide scholarship to them immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, In response to the request received from students belonging to Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Kinaur, Lahaulspiti and enrolled in Scajeh Monastic College, Nyingmapa Monastery, Abet Loseling College, all located

in Karnataka for the award of scholarships for study of Buddhist culture, literature as well as Tibetan literature, an ad-hoc grant of Rs. 2,34,900 was sanctioned for the year 1983-84 as a special case for giving scholarships to 783 students at the rate of Rs. 25/- per student per month, enrolled in these monasteries and monastic colleges. These grants were released between October 1983 and June 1984.

Study into the Harmful effects of certain Drugs banned in European Countries

497. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have done any study into the harmful effects of certain drugs marketed in India which are banned in European countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether India has banned the marketing of any of such drugs ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Out of 31 drugs, reported by the WHO to have been withdrawn in some countries, 14 drugs were not approved for marketing in India at all, 10 drugs have been withdrawn from the market and the remaining 7 drugs namely : (1) Nitrofuram compounds (2) Phenformin (3) Hydroxy. quinoline derivatives (4) higher dose Lynes-trenon products (5) Piperazine (6) Phepyl-butazone/Oxyphenbutazone and (7) Analgin have been permitted for marketing in the country in consultation with the Medical Experts subject to a cautionary statement and contra indications being given on the label/package insert.

Construction of Rengali Dam in Orissa

498. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the target date set for the completion of Rengali Dam in Orissa;

(b) the progress made in the completion of the dam;

(c) the funds provided by the Centre for the construction of the above dam project so far; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the construction works ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The Rengali Dam is programmed to be completed by the end of 1985.86. Work on the main dam has been almost completed and the remaining minor works are in progress.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 34.22 crores was provided by the Centre as special loan assistance under the flood control sector till the end of March 1985. The construction work of the project is being monitored by the Central Water Commission.

Educational Assistance to Children of Employees

499. **SHRI ANIL BASU :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether educational assistance in respect of a child for the second year in the same class is permissible;

(b) whether payment of educational assistance in respect of a child is ceased after attaining the age of 18 years;

(c) whether the educational assistance is admissible upto the Higher Secondary School standard; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to raise the limit of eligibility of educational assistance in respect of a child from 18 years to 21 years since the assistance is granted for the second year in the same class and considering the fact that a child may be detained in the same class for the second year and also considering the fact that the employees' sons under 21 years of age are granted passes and PTOs as per rules ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, as far as the Railways are concerned.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. A proposal to raise the age limit from 18 to 20 years is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways at present.

DTC Bus Fleet

500. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of DTC buses and private buses under DTC, operating in Delhi;

(b) whether some of them are being run as deluxe buses; and

(c) if so, number of such buses of DTC and private buses separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The position of buses as on 10.7.85 is as under:-

(i) DTC's own	4023
(ii) Private operated buses under DTC operation	1404 (Standard Size bus) 55 (Mini buses)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The number of buses running as deluxe buses with a flat fare of Rs. 1/- is as under :-

DTC	49
Private buses under DTC operation.	303

Earning from D.T.C. Buses on each Saturday of May and June, 1985

501. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the earning from D.T.C. buses including private buses under D.T.C., on each Saturday of June, 1985; and

(b) the comparative figures for each Saturday in May, 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) The traffic earning from DTC buses including private buses under its control on each Saturday of June, 1985 and May, 1985 is summarized below :-

Day - 'SATURDAY'

<i>JUNE, 1985</i>	<i>Total traffic earning (Rupees)</i>
1.6.85	17,21,668
8.6.85	18,12,981
15.6.85	18,27,625
22.6.85	18,26,894
29.6.85	18,88,536
<i>May, 1985</i>	
4.5.95	17,72,756
11.5.85	17,21,797
18.5.85	15,16,394
25.5.85	18 20,191

Special Grant for Teesta Barrage

502. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has asked for special grant for the current year for the Teesta Barrage Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response made by the Central Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The Government of West Bengal have requested for a special Central Assistance of Rs. 18 crores for the current year for Teesta Barrage Project. Irrigation projects are required to be funded by the States from their plan resources.

Central assistance is provided for the State Plan as a whole and is not tied to any sector of activity or project.

Computerisation System in Railways

503. SHRI SRI HARI RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are going in for computerization in a big way;

(b) if so in what particular fields of Railway working it is proposed to use computers; and

(c) the details of the scheme for computerisation on the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to use the computers in the following fields of Railway working :-

- (i) Transport management which will include Freight Operations Information & Control System; as a two-tier architecture - a central system and a zonal system.
- (ii) Commercial Management including computerisation of Passenger Seats/Berth Reservation System at major reservation points.
- (iii) Integrated Financial Management System including performance budgeting and responsibility accounting;
- (iv) Materials Management;
- (v) Personnel Management;
- (vi) Fuel Management;
- (vii) Assets Management;
- (viii) Production Planning & Control;
- (ix) Research and Design;
- (x) Miscellaneous applications, like Operating Statistics, Fuel Linking, Claims Statistics; etc.

(c) The software for the various applications mentioned in (b) above for the new computers are in various stages of planning/development/implementation. The hardware

portion of the scheme envisages a large scale computer system for the Freight Operation Information and Control System and Passenger Seat/Berth Reservation System. For Freight Operations Information System, a detailed project plan is under preparation and computerisation of passenger reservations system is being implemented in Delhi as a pilot project.

For other fields of Railway working, computers have already been replaced at ICF, Central Railway and South Central Railway, and orders have been placed for the remaining 7 Zonal Railways and 2 Production Units. Order has already been placed for a computer for Wheel & Axle Plant, Bangalore. In addition, it is proposed to instal advance generation computers in 25 major Divisions, 7 Repair Workshops, 4 Stores Depots, D.C.W. Patiala; R.D.S.O./Lucknow, during the 7th Plan period. During the same period, it is also proposed to instal Micro-processor, Office Automation Equipments in 100 Office locations.

Setting Up More Power Plants in Eastern and North-Eastern Regions

504. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up more power plants in the Eastern and North-Eastern regions;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) steps so far taken by the Government since January, 1985, till now ?

Statement

The information concerning the Institutions with which the Union Government are directly concerned is as under :-

Name of the Institution	No. of Post.	No. of students who applied for admission to First MBBS Course of studies.	
		1984	1985
1. Jawahar Lal Institute of Post graduate in Medical Education & Research, Pondicherry.	65	8086	7586
2. Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi	130	Delhi University conducts combined entrance examination for three medical colleges in Delhi including Lady Hardinge Medical College. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate the figures in respect of students who applied for admission to Lady Hardinge Medical College.	
3. Armed Forces Medical College, Pune	130		
		13900	15324

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to various on-going schemes, power projects aggregating to a capacity of 3470 MW in the Eastern Region and 439 MW in the North-Eastern Region have been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and await investment decision.

(c) Projects totalling to a capacity of 840 MW in the Eastern Region and 80 MW in the North Eastern Region have been sanctioned since January, 1985. During this period, projects of 2190 MW capacity have also been techno-economically cleared by the CEA in the Eastern Region.

Admission to Medical Colleges

505. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) total number of students who applied for admission in medical college under the Union Government in 1984 and 1985, and the number that could get admission in Medical Colleges, college-wise; and

(b) the number of students, if any, who could not get admission in medical colleges and reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

Institutions Functioning under Adult Education Scheme

506. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of institutions which are functioning in the country under the adult education scheme ;

(b) the number of persons who availed the facilities in those institutions during the year 1983-84 and 1984-85 ; and

(c) the number of such institutions in which women are availing this facility ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) As per the information received from the State Governments/ Union Territories Administrations, 2,29,476 adult Education centres were functioning in the country during the quarter ending March, 1985 under various Schemes of the adult education programme.

(b) Enrolment in the adult education centres during 1983-84 and 1984-85 was 51.48 lakhs and 65.91 lakhs respectively.

(c) The number of centres having women learners was 93,504 in 1983-84 and 1,03,069 centres in 1984-85 (upto September, 1984).

Providing Stoppage of Shri Jagannath Express at Balasore

507. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation to provide stoppage of Up and Dn Shri Jagannath Express at Balasore; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) As there is already a stoppage of 9 Up/10 Dn Shri Jagannath Express at Balasore, the question of receiving any representation and action taken thereon does not arise.

Fund Needed for Canals in Orissa

508. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two major irrigation projects in Orissa would be ready next year and funds were needed for constructing canals for irrigation which would usher in 'a rice revolution' in the eastern sector; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :

(a) and (b) The dam portion of the Rengali Multi-purpose project is likely to be completed during 1985-86. However, the irrigation component of the project estimated to cost Rs. 792.04 crores will spill-over into the Eighth Plan due to constraint of funds.

Battery Driven Mini Buses in Delhi

509. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : SHRI G. G. SWELL :

SHRI SRIBLLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to introduce noiseless, pollution-free battery driven mini buses in Delhi ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Delhi Administration has already started plying battery buses in the walled city. One battery operated bus manufactured by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited was given by Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources to Delhi Energy Development Agency in Feb.'85 for monitoring its performance. After watching the performance for three months, Delhi Administration felt that such buses may be plied in the congested area of the walled city where many cheap modes of transport do not exist. Six such buses have been obtained from BHEL and they are plying on two

routes i. e. route no. 1 from New Delhi Railway Station to Ajmeri Gate, Chandni Chowk and back to New Delhi Railway Station and route no. 2 from Red Fort to Fatehpuri. The cost of one such bus is Rs 2 lakhs approximately and each bus consumes 30 units of electricity per day for recharging. It runs between 50 to 70 kms on a single charging.

Additional Line on Howrah-Kharagpur Section

510. SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Howrah-Kharagpur section of the railway route is oversaturated and there is no capacity to accept any additional train ;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan for additional line on this route to ease the oversaturated condition as well as to introduce much needed additional trains on this line ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Survey for provision of fourth line between Santragachi and Panskura stations and third line between Panskura and Kharagpur is currently in progress. Provision of automatic signalling on Haur-Kharagpur section has been approved as Out-of-Turn work in 1984-85 with a view to increasing its capacity.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Scheme to Check Floods in Ganga

511. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is formulating a scheme to check Ganga floods ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof and by what time the work is likely to be started ; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on this scheme and the sources from which it will be met ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared a draft Comprehensive Plan of Flood Control in the Ganga Basin. It envisages the construction of various flood protection works like reservoirs, embankments, drainage channels, bank protection works and soil conservation measures. The draft Plan has been circulated to the States for their comments. Meanwhile, some of the works included in the draft Plan have already been started by the States according to the availability of funds.

(c) The estimated cost of the works envisaged under Comprehensive Plan was assessed as Rs. 1977.50 crores in 1982. The expenditure on these works is to be financed by the States from their Plan funds.

[English]

Restructuring of National Thermal Power Corporation

512. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to restructure the National Thermal Power Corporation as reported in the Economic Times of June 14, 1985;

(b) if so, whether there are plans also to separate engineering and construction services; and

(c) in what way is the proposed change expected to improve the functioning of the National Thermal Power Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration to restructure the National Thermal Power Corporation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Escalation of Cost in Railway Projects

513. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for cost escalation by about Rs. 115 crores over the original estimates in two railways projects namely Samastipur-Barabanki-Lucknow lines broad gauge conversion and New Bongaigaon-Gauhati Broad Gauge (BG) line construction;

(b) whether it is the average cost escalation ratio in all such railway projects;

(c) if not, the average cost escalation ratio; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to check cost escalation in various projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The increase in the cost of these gauge conversion projects is expected to be much more than Rs. 115 crores and has been mainly on account of the escalation in prices of labour and materials, during the prolonged period of execution of these projects, and partly due to provision of a few additional works/facilities subsequently considered necessary in the changed circumstances, for which no provision had been made in the original estimates.

(b) and (c) Cost escalation varies considerably from project to project, depending on period of completion which is affected by the availability of resources, and the extent of inflation during the period of construction. It also depends to some extent on the changing needs of the situation warranting variation in scope of work. Resource constraint is most severe for gauge conversion and new lines projects due to inadequate allocation of resources and heavy commitments on hand resulting in comparatively higher cost escalation for these type of projects.

(d) Efforts are continuously made to get more resources for early completion of

on-going projects and new projects are kept to the minimum, so as not to spread the resources thinly.

Central Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas of States

514. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken decision to open the Central Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan areas of the States;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Home Affairs suggested the places to open the Central Schools;

(c) if so, the places selected for opening the Central Schools during the year 1985-86, State-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to open at least one Central School in each ITDA/ITDP project area during Seventh Plan; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (e) Central Schools are primarily meant to cater to the educational needs of children of transferable Central Government employees and are financed from the Non-Plan budget of the Central Government. No decision has been taken to open Central Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan areas of the States.

Traffic Survey of Naupada Gunupur N. G. Line

515. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the South-Eastern Railway has conducted traffic survey of Naupada-Gunupur narrow gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for loss in this narrow gauge line and the steps taken by the authority to reduce the loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No survey

has been carried out in the recent past for gauge conversion of Naupada-Gunupur N.G. line to B. G.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The main reasons for loss being incurred in operating this line are on account of extremely poor traffic and severe competition from Road transport. Efforts continue to be made to reduce working expenses and improve the earnings by stricter checks against ticketless travel.

Restoration of the Gunupur-Naupada Train

516. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Eastern Railway has cancelled one train, which originates from Gunupur to Naupada;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to restore that train by South Eastern Railway ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir, only the run of one pair has been partially curtailed.

(b) and (c) This has been done to avoid night running between Parlakimidi and Gunupur. Steps to restore the train will be taken after the monsoon.

Collection of Data and Compulsory Breakdown of Sex and Age

517. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Indian delegation to the ESCAP (Economic and Social Council for the Asia and Pacific) Regional Preparatory Conference for UN Mid-Decade (International Women's decade), Conference organised by the ESCAP in New Delhi moved a recommendation that all national data collection agencies should provide sex and

age breakdown for any information they gather;

(b) if so, whether Government gave any thought to this recommendation and with what result; and

(c) if not, whether the Ministry is now contemplating to introduce compulsory breakdown of sex and age in all relevant data collected in its own Ministry and pursue the same with other Ministries in view of serious gaps in data regarding women's employment and other socio-economic situations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANRAKAR) : (a) No, Sir. However the ESCAP Regional Preparatory Conference held in New Delhi in November 1979 made a recommendation for collection of data sex-wise.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Social & Women's Welfare has brought out a statistical compilation on "Women in India, A Statistical Profile." The information furnished in this compilation is sex-wise. The Registrar General, Census Operation also collects and publishes data, sex and age group-wise.

Involvement of Private Sector for Construction of Motorways

518. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has recently addressed the State Governments to involve private sector in construction of highways and bye-passes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the private sector companies which have shown interest in this regard;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to involve private sector in constructing motorways from one point to another on the basis of a toll system;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(e) how the collection of the toll is going to be monitored by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Proposals from Private Sector Companies will be dealt with by respective State Governments.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Recently, offers have been invited for private sector financing of selected schemes of National Highways. Last date of receipt of such offers is 30-9-85 and therefore details like monitoring of toll etc. of the schemes have not been worked out.

Evaluation of Text Books

519. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had recently requested the State Governments to undertake a systematic programme of evaluation of text books from the point of view of national integration;

(b) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Union Government to hold a conference in consultation with the heads of education departments in States Ministers of Education; and

(c) if so, by when and what further steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Since 1981 Government have taken up a programme for evaluation of school text books in history and languages from the stand point of National Integration. The programme is being implemented by all States/Union Territories. This work is nearing completion and now the State Governments have been asked to undertake evaluation of textbooks in other subjects e.g., Civics, Geography and Sociology. The guidelines to evaluate textbooks on these subjects are

under finalization by NCERT and would be circulated among the States/UTs to develop a Plan for evaluation of text books.

In January 1985, the Union Education Secretary has advised the State Governments that there was need to have a built-in system for continuous evaluation of textbooks. Evaluation should be made a part of the system of textbooks preparation and development. It was desired that specific guidelines be prepared and issued to all authors when they were entrusted with the task of textbooks writing. It was emphasised that in addition the texts should be scrutinised for this purpose before publication so that no material prejudicial to National Integration gets included in the textbooks.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However NCERT organises annual Conferences on school textbooks in which the Directors and Chairmen of the State Textbook Agencies, the Chairmen/Secretaries of the Boards of School Education, NCERT Officials and Officials of this Ministry take part.

Private Sector for Power Generation

520. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Association of Indian Engineering Industry has urged the Union Government to amend the outdated Electricity Act and also to allow the private sector to enter into the field of power generation;

(b) whether any decision on the representation of the Association of Indian Engineering Industry has since been taken;

(c) if so, the details of the representation and action taken so far; and

(d) to what extent it would help power generation if private sector is allowed entry in the field of power generation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) to (d) The Association of Indian Engineering Industry has, inter-alia, suggested a new enactment which

would enable establishment of companies in the private sector to generate power for sale to consumers, captive generation, tax exemptions, and financial assistance etc.

There has been no change in the policy regarding private sector participation in power generation. The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 does not preclude power generation in the private sector. The present policy is regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. Under this Resolution the generation and distribution of electricity falls under Schedule 'A', which includes the category of industries, the future development of which will be the exclusive responsibility of the State. The Resolution, however, does not preclude the expansion of the existing privately owned units or the possibility of the State securing the cooperation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units when the national interests so require.

Permission for captive power units is given where the requirement of power is large and continuous and reliable power is necessary.

Eleru Reservoir Project

521. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that the first phase of the Eleru Reservoir project started as far back as 1979 has not yet been completed; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay and action envisaged by Government to release adequate funds for the early completion of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh took up the construction of Yeleru Reservoir Project in 1979 and has incurred an expenditure of Rs 46 crores upto end of Sixth Plan against the estimated cost of Rs. 149 crores. Due to inadequate funds provided by the State Government the project works have not been completed. The State Government has proposed to provide the full spill-over cost of this project in

the VII Five Year Plan which has also been recommended by the Working Group of the Planning Commission.

Examinations Conducted by Railway Recruitment Boards

522. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of examinations conducted by the Railway Recruitment Boards during the last three years ;

(b) whether the Railway Recruitment Boards take more than a year to declare results for the examinations conducted by them ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in declaring results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) The Railway Recruitment Boards conduct examinations for more than 50 technical and non-technical categories and on an average, an examination is conducted each year for each category, depending upon the indents placed on them by the Railway administrations. The recruitment process involves inviting of applications, preliminary scrutiny thereof, conducting written examinations and interviews. Normally, the time taken for completion of the recruitment process is less than a year, specially so where computerisation has been done. In a few exceptional cases where a very large number of applications have been received for popular categories like Office Clerks, Ticket Collectors etc. or where some irregularities had come to notice and the matter had to be enquired into, the time taken for finalisation of the panels had been more than a year.

Deaths due to Brain Fever in Karnataka

523. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware that due to brain fever several deaths are occurring in Karnataka State ;

(b) whether Union Government have provided any kind of help to the State Government for this purpose ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of deaths occurred so far due to brain fever ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the medicines etc. to cure brain fever are not available in Government hospitals and dispensaries in Karnataka State ; and

(e) further steps contemplated by the Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) In 1985, upto 29th June, 1985, 112 cases and 45 deaths due to Japanese Encephalitis have been reported in Karnataka. The Union Government provides technical and expert guidance through National Institute of Virology, Pune, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi in the management of cases and diagnosis. States/UTs have been advised to spray DDT/BHC on an area 2/3 Km. around a case wherever reported. DDT/BHC is supplied from National Malaria Eradication Programme for control of Japanese Encephalitis. Fogging operations with Malathion have also been proposed. Vaccines are supplied to the States on demand by the Director, National Malaria Eradication Programme, Delhi. Detailed guidelines regarding causation, transmission, epidemiology, entomology, signs, symptoms, treatment, vaccine and other preventive measures has been issued to all States/U.Ts. Symptomatic treatment is given to patients of Japanese Encephalitis and adequate quantities of required drugs are reported to be stocked in all the problem areas.

Stoppage of K. K. Express from Adoni withdrawn and providing a Stoppage of Udyan Express at Kosigi

524. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the K. K. Express running between Bangalore and New Delhi used to stop at Adoni in Andhra Pradesh but is not stopping at Adoni from 1st May, 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Udyan Express running between Bangalore and Bombay stops at Kosigi in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if not, whether a number of representations were sent to the Railway authorities to stop the Udyan Express train at Kosigi; and

(e) if so, action taken thereon and whether there are proposal to reschedule the timings of the Udyan Express ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For want of long distance traffic offering.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Matter has been examined but stoppage has not been found justified on account of meagre traffic offering. There is no proposal at present to revise the timings of Udyan Express.

Utilization of Godavari Water for Power and Irrigation

525. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey or investigation has been conducted for the maximum utilization of the river Godavari both for power and irrigation;

(b) whether the Bachavat Award provided for deviation of water from Godavari to the Krishna basin to augment irrigation in Krishna basin;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to persuade the concerned States to exploit the Godavari river for

maximum utilization of power and irrigation;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the hydro electric power potentiality of the Himalayan rivers i.e. ALAKNANDA, the BHAGIRATHI, and the river GANGA at its origin Devprayaga; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (c) Centre has been urging upon the State Governments to prepare Master Plans for the optimum utilization of the water resources in the River Basins. The concerned States from the Godavari Basin have investigated and formulated a number of projects for irrigation and hydro-power developments. But comprehensive master plans for use of all the Godavari waters available to them are yet to be prepared by them.

(b) The decision of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal headed by Justice R. S. Bachawat provides that 80 TMC of Godavari waters can be diverted to Krishna River above Vijayawada Anicut displacing the discharges from Nagarjunasagar Project for Krishna Delta, thus enabling the use of the said 80 TMC for projects upstream of Nagarjunasagar.

(d) and (e) According to the Hydro-Electric Power Potentiality Survey conducted by the Central Electricity Authority, the hydro-electric potential of the Himalayan Rivers mentioned in the Question is assessed as 5147 MW at 60% load factor with a break-up as under:-

Alaknanda	2242 MW
Bhagirathi	1397 MW
Ganga (Main below	
Devprayag)	1508 MW

	5147 MW

Cancer Specialists in AIIMS

526. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures proposed by Government to provide cancer specialists in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi to give better treatment to the patients afflicted with this disease ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : The AIIMS have reported that in the first phase of development of the Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital, 14 posts of specialists have been created, out of which 7 posts have already been filled. 5 posts of specialists have been advertised and selection will be made shortly. All efforts are being made to provide the best medical care to cancer patients with the available resources.

Railway Projects Sanctioned but shelved due to Financial Constraints vis-a-vis Projects not sanctioned but taken up

527. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) how many railway projects earlier sanctioned for improvement of railway service, have been shelved on grounds of severe financial constraints, the details thereof ; and

(b) how many railway project not sanctioned earlier have been taken up or will be taken up for the improvement of the railway service, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The following projects though earlier approved for being taken up have been removed from the list of approved works for reasons of severe financial constraints, apart from other reasons :

1. New BG line from Kalka to Parwanoo (Tirpa) (4.3 kms) At the request of Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, this work has been deleted.
2. Restoration of Miraj-Sangli line (7.7 kms.)

3. Bringing Old Madhavnagar on the main line by providing a chord between Nandara and New Sangli on Pune-Miraj section.
4. Parallel B.G. line between Bareilly and Bhojipura and conversion of M.G. line into B.G. from Bhojipura to Kathgodam (109 kms.)
5. Conversion of M.G. line into B.G. from Katihar to Siliguri-New Jalpaiguri (209 kms.). This work has been deleted to avoid cutting of the M.G. link to North East States. In lieu thereof, line capacity of the existing B.G. route is being augmented.

Planning Commission have not agreed to take up the following works due to constraint of resources :

1. New B.G. line from Sultanpur to Rewa (266 kms.)
2. New B.G. line from Tamluk-Digha (80 kms).
3. Conversion of M.G. line into B.G. from Delhi to Sabarmati (925 kms).

Planning Commission's clearance is also awaited for the following projects :

1. New B.G. line from Budge Budge-Namkhana including Lakshmikantpur-Kulpi line (100 kms).
2. New B.G. line from Satna to Rewa (50 kms).
3. New B.G. line from Guna to Etawah (348 kms).

(b) Details of New works approved during the current financial year are given in the Railway Budget 1985-86. So far as further new works are concerned, the question of taking them up will depend on their justification and availability of resources.

Working Women Hostels Chain and Involvement of Voluntary Agencies

528. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to create a working women hostels chain and movement based on the International Youth Hostels to cover every women of different strata throughout the country ;

(b) whether any estimate has been made of the total hostel needs of single working women in the country and the accommodation both private and Government actually available at fair prices ; and

(c) whether Government also propose to involve reputed voluntary agencies/individuals in this work specially the retired public servants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Scheme of Assistance for the Construction of Hostel Buildings for Working Women with a Day Care Centre is being implemented through voluntary agencies.

Railway Accidents during the Past Two Months

529. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :
 PROF. P. J. KURIEN :
 SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN :
 SHRI VISHNU MODI :
 SHRI B. V. DESAI :
 SHRI R. M. BHOYE :
 SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK :
 SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
 SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
 SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA :
 SHRI SRIHARI RAO :
 SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway accidents which took place during the past two months ;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured and damage to railway property as a result of those accidents ;

(c) the causes of the accidents which came to light after conducting enquiry, if any ;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the main cause of these accidents was the negligence on the part of railway employees ;

(e) if so, the concrete measures being taken to prevent such accidents in future and particularly the measures for combating with the human factor ;

(f) whether any compensation has been paid or ex-gratia payment made to the families of those killed and injured therein ;

(g) if so, the details thereof ; and

(h) whether Railways are incurring losses to the tune of Rs. 200 crores every year owing to accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Speeding Up of Bangalore Trivandrum Express

530. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bangalore-Trivandrum Express is the slowest express in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to speed up the Bangalore-Trivandrum Express ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal.

Setting UP of a Shipping Development Bank of India

531. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level official Committee headed by the Secretary of the Ministry has recommended setting up of a Shipping Development Bank of India (SDBI) ;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Committee ; and

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) The Committee to review the arrangements for assistance to shipping companies has, *inter alia* in its report, submitted in June, '85, suggested the setting up of Shipping Development Bank of India with the objective of gradual reduction of dependence of Indian shipping industry on Government budgetary outlays and to permit greater application of banking principles to ship financing. The recommended bank is to be provided with a nucleus of equity by Government and would be expected to raise resources from the market by way of loans, debentures, bonds etc.

(c) Government has not taken decision in the matter.

Financial Assistance from State Governments to Run Uneconomic Sections of Railways

532. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM :

PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board intends to seek financial help from State Governments in running certain uneconomic sections of the Indian Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact about 41 such sections including Broad Gauge and Metre Gauge are there in the country;

(c) what is the loss incurred therefrom; and

(d) what was actually sought from the State Governments or what were proposals in this behalf ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) The Railway Reforms Committee have recommended closure of 40 uneconomic branch lines on all three gauges, where adequate road transport facility exists to meet the transport needs of the area satisfactorily and the railways are suffering losses in operating them, the amount of losses suffered during 1983-84 on these 40 lines being about Rs. 815 Lakhs. As recommended by the Committee, the State Governments concerned have been addressed requesting them either to agree for closure of these lines or share 50 per cent of the losses suffered by the railways on such of the lines as they may desire to be continued.

Vacant Post of Chairman Central Social Welfare Board

533. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chairman of Central Social Welfare Board has not been filled up for quite sometime;

(b) if so, whether because of this situation many States including Sikkim have not received their fund timely from the Board for their welfare activities ; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to rectify the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The post of Chairman, Central Social Welfare Board has fallen vacant with effect from 19.1.85.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, The Executive Director of the Board has been empowered by the Executive Committee of the Board to exercise financial and administrative powers of the Chairman. Funds allocated to Central Social Welfare Board during the year 1984-85 and the additional amount given to the Board at the end of the year, have been fully utilised. Sikkim and other States are receiving funds from the Board for their welfare activities. Government has already

initiated efforts to appoint Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board.

[Translation]

Transportation of Coal and Pulses

534. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether, keeping in view the acute shortage of coal in industrial establishments and power houses in the country, the Railways propose to accord priority to the transport, of coal;

(b) if so, when priority would be given to the transport of coal; and

(c) whether, keeping in view the shortage of pulses in different parts of the country, transport of pulses would also be accorded priority ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) The transportation of coal for power houses and industrial establishments is arranged under priority 'C' of the Preferential Traffic Schedule which is a sufficiently high priority.

(c) Movement of pulses when sponsored by State Government and Food Corporation of India, has already been accorded sufficiently high priority i.e. priorities 'C' and 'D' respectively of the Preferential Traffic Schedule. Movement of non-sponsored pulses is done under priority 'E'.

[English]

Indo USSR Agreement for Thermal Power Plants

535. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement between India and the USSR for providing equipment and technical documentation for thermal power stations in the country, was recently signed;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement and the names of the thermal power stations for which necessary assistance will be provided by the USSR ;

(c) whether spare parts will be provided by the USSR or will be produced in the country to meet the requirements ;

(d) who are the signatories to the agreement, their status and names ; and

(e) the details of the thermal and hydel power stations for which USSR has given help as on 30.6.1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) and (b) A Credit Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation was signed on 22nd May, 1985 between India and the USSR. The Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project with a capacity of 840 MW is covered under this Agreement.

(c) The agreement provides for supply of spare parts for initial inventory mobilisation as may be mutually agreed upon.

(d) The signatories to the Agreement are Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, and Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR.

(e) The power projects which have been/are being, finance from Soviet Credits include :

- (i) Neyveli Thermal Power Station.
- (ii) Obra Thermal Power Station.
- (iii) Koroa Thermal Power Station.
- (iv) Bhakra Right Bank Power House.
- (v) Lower Sileru Hydro Power Station.
- (vi) Vindhyachal Thermal Power Project.

Lighthouses on the Coast of Andhra Pradesh

536. SHRI TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of lighthouses on the coast of Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to

increase the number of such lighthouses on the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these lighthouses are expected to be set up particularly during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) There are 12 Lighthouses on the coast of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Training Centres for Lightkeepers

537. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a Training Centre at Calcutta to impart training to the lightkeepers ;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up more such centres in the country ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether such a centre will be set up in Andhra Pradesh ;

(d) if so, details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal for setting up another Training Centre in Andhra Pradesh or elsewhere.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Training Centre at Calcutta is intended for training of Lightkeepers on an All India basis. As this training centre copes with the training needs for lightkeepers, no new additional centres are proposed.

**Revised Estimated Proposals for
the Development of Hindustan
Shipyards Limited**

538. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government approved the modernisation and development programme of the Hindustan Shipyards Limited, Visakhapatnam in 1983 ;

(b) if so, the estimated cost approved by the Government for the purpose ;

(c) whether some proposals have now again been received by the Government for further revision of the estimates for the development of the shipyard ;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government on the proposals ;

(e) the time by which the developmental work is expected to be completed ; and

(f) the extent to which the capacity of the shipyard will be increased ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes Sir

(b) The present revised estimated cost of the project is Rs. 66 crores.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The project is expected to be completed partially by December, 1985 and by March, 1986 in all respects.

(f) On completion of the project, the rated capacity of the shipyard will increase from the present 3 non pioneer vessels of 21,500 DWT each to 6½ to 7 per annum with an equivalent steel throughput of 30,000 tonnes.

[Translation]

**Recommendations of Conference of
Vice Chancellors**

539. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Conference of Vice-Chancellors was held in June, 1985 and if so, the main recommendations thereof ;

(b) whether it was also recommended at the conference that five percent of the plan amount be spent on education ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b) The UGC had set up a Committee of Vice-Chancellors to prepare a Status Paper on Higher Education in the context of the ongoing review of the Education Policy. The Report of this Committee was forwarded by the UGC in June 1985. It suggested that plan allocations for major developmental sectors should include 5% of such allocation for manpower development.

(c) The suggestions made by the Committee are being taken into account while preparing the Status Paper on Education which is proposed to be discussed widely for developing a consensus on educational issues and formulating the National Policy for Education. The question of resource requirements for education will also be projected and later taken into consideration for Policy formulation.

[English]

Ernakulam Alleppey Rail Line

540. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) at what stage the construction of the rail line between Ernakulam and Alleppey stands at present ;

(b) what was the original estimated cost and the time fixed for its completion ; and

(c) by what time it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The overall progress is 44%.

(b) The original estimated cost was Rs. 1506.58 lakhs. No target date was fixed

for this project in view of severe constraint of resources.

(c) Its completion will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Railway Projects Pending Completion In Andhra Pradesh

541. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the major Railway projects pending completion in Andhra Pradesh with their scheduled date of completion and expected date of completion ; and

(b) whether in respect of projects the completion of which has been delayed, any

escalation in cost has taken place and the provision made to meet the escalated cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Details of major projects pending completion in Andhra Pradesh are given in the statement below. Schedule date of completion for most of these projects could not be fixed due to uncertainty and non-availability of adequate resources. Their likely date of completion is for the same reason not known, as it will also depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

(b) Funds for these projects including element of escalation of cost are being provided through Railway Budget depending on overall availability of resources for the Railway Plan.

Statement

Major Railway Projects pending completion in Andhra Pradesh

New Lines

1. Bibinagar-Nadikudi	149 Kms.	The line between Bibinagar and Mirayalgude (110 Kms.) opened to traffic.
2. Telapur-Patancheru.	8 Kms.	
3. Motumari-Jaggayyapeta	32 Kms.	
4. Adilabad-Pimpalkutti	21 Kms.	Partly in Andhra Pradesh
5. Chitradurg-Rayadurg	100 Kms.	Partly in Andhra Pradesh.

Gauge Conversions

6. Guntur-Macherla	130 Kms.
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Doublings

7. Manikgarh-Wirur-Sirpur Town-Rachini Road	65 Kms.	40 Kms. opened to traffic, 18 Kms. targetted for December, 1985.
8. Pemberti-Pindiya	45 Kms.	5.32 Kms. opened to traffic in March, 1985.
9. Hyderabad-Telapur	28 Kms.	

Electrification Projects

10. Vijayewada-Makudi as part of Vijayawada-Balharshah electrification projects.	414 Kms.	Targetted for 1988-89.
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11. Kazipet-Sanatnagar 167 Kms.
Electrification Project.

12. Malanur-Gudupulli 30 Kms.
as part of electrification
of Jolar-pettai Bangalore
Section.

Bridges

13. Construction of new bridge in replacement of old Krishna Bridge (Cost Rs. 9.05 crores)

14. Construction of new bridge in replacement of old Godavari Bridge. (Cost Rs. 31.43 crore)

15. Road over bridges at Gudivada, Nidamanur, Sanathnagar, Bibinagar, Vikarabad, Bhimavaram, Gudur, Nidubralu, Begumpet, and Nandyal (Cost Rs. 6.33 crores)

Work Shops and Sheds

16. Guntapalli-New Broad Gauge wagon repair shop. (Anticipated cost Rs. 26.5 crore) Expected date of completion March, 1986.

17. New carriage repair shop for Broad Gauge coaches for South Zone at Triputi. (Cost Rs. 18.33 crores)

18. Secunderabad (Maula Ali) setting up of combined BG & MG diesel loco shed for homing 20 B.G. and 20 M. G. shunting locos. (Cost Rs. 1.27 crore) Expected date of completion March, 1986.

19. Vijayawada-Provision of a diesel loco-shed to home 40 WDM 1 class diesel loco shunters. (Cost Rs. 1.72 crore) Expected date of completion March, 1986.

20. Gooty-Development of maintenance facilities for BOX 'N' wagons. (Cost Rs. 1.18 crore)

21. Waltair-Modification to DEC sick line for provision of pit wheel lathe including shed for the pit wheel lathe. (Cost Rs. 1.25 crore) Expected date of completion March, 1986.

*[Translation]***Introduction of a Train Between Delhi and Jaunpur**

542. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new train between Delhi and Jaunpur keeping in view the increasing number of passengers travelling between Delhi and Jaunpur ;

(b) if so, when ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For lack of resources in the shape of coaches, locomotives and terminal facilities.

*[English]***Coal Supply to Bihar's Thermal Power Plants**

543. DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has recently assured the Bihar Government of adequate coal reserves for the State's thermal power plants ;

(b) if so, full details of quantity of coal reserves which the Central Electricity Authority proposes to allot to Bihar State during 1985-86 ; and

(c) to what extent the coal reserves will be adequate for thermal power plants in Bihar State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) to (c) The Standing Linkage Committee set up in the Department of Coal determines the quantity of coal to be supplied in every quarter to thermal power stations depending on their generation programmes. For the quarter July-September, 1985, Barauni, Patratu, Muzaffarpur

and Karbigahia (Patna) thermal stations in Bihar have been given linkages of 30.8, 10.9 and 0.15 lakh tonnes of coal respectively, which will fully meet their requirements.

Review of the Scheme 'Adult Education'

544. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the scheme of adult education has failed and the amount spent on this scheme is going waste ;

(b) estimated number of illiterate adults at present in country, men and women separately ;

(c) whether Government propose to further review the adult education scheme ;

(d) if so, by when and whether Central Government propose to issue any guidelines in this respect to the State Governments ; and

(e) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) It is not a fact that the adult education programme has failed and the amount spent on it is being wasted.

(b) According to the 1981 Census, the number of adult illiterates of the age-group 15 and above was 23.82 crore-9.39 crore men and 14.43 crore women (excluding Assam). It was envisaged in the Sixth Five Year Plan that nearly 11 crore illiterates—4.2 crore men and 6.8 crore women in the age group 15-35 constituting the bulk of the work-force would be enrolled under the adult education programme by 1990. Nearly 2.3 crore illiterates have been covered in the Sixth Plan period and the remaining 8.7 crore are proposed to be covered during the Seventh Plan.

(c) to (e) The Adult Education Programme has been reviewed by the National Board of Adult Education—an apex body at the central level to advise the Government on the formulation of policies and programmes relating to adult education and suggest measures regarding the quality and coverage of the Programme, on 25th May, 1985, and

the Board have recommended certain measures to step up the level of performance to achieve the goal of eradication of illiteracy in the age-group 15-35 by 1990. The modalities and guidelines relating to launching a mass movement for functional literacy are under consideration.

**Difficulties due to new Timings in
C.G.H.S Dispensaries**

545. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the general public at large has been facing difficulties in getting medicines and treatment due to new timings in C.G.H.S Dispensaries;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to 5 days week in Government offices which start from 9 A.M. the Government employees cannot attend even CGHS dispensaries in the morning ;

(c) whether Government would again change the CGHS dispensaries timings keeping in view the hardships faced by the Government employees ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI
YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d)
The new timings for the CGHS dispensaries have been introduced from 10th June, 1985 on an experimental basis. Certain representations have been received for restoration of old timings. The position will be reviewed after experimental stage is over.

**News Item Captioned "Slimming
Centres Bulge in Delhi"**

546. DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Will the
Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press news item captioned "Slimming centres bulge in Delhi" appeared in Indian Express dated 16 June, 1985 ;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the slimming centres in Delhi

are using drugs by mixing the same in the diet ;

(c) whether his Ministry proposes to make a thorough investigation about the device of the slimming centres ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and further steps Government have taken/proposed to take to safeguard the interest of the innocent public ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION
AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARA-
NAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are not aware of any such mixture of drugs with diets.

(c) and (d) Government do not consider that there are any overwhelming reasons to order a thorough investigation about the slimming centres.

**Collision between Shahjahanpur-Tanakpur
Express and Tractor Trolley between
Shahjahanpur and Nigohi Stations**

547. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "3 killed as train rams into trolley" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 16 June 1985 wherein it has been reported that Shahjahanpur-Tanakpur Express ploughed into the tractor trolley stranded at a crossing between Shahjahanpur and Nigohi Stations of NER on 15 June, 1985 ;

(b) if so, estimated loss of lives and property ;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b)
Yes, Sir, 147 Dn, metre gauge Shahjahanpur-Tanakpur Fast Passenger rammed into a tractor trolley No. 4427 USW at an unmanned level crossing No. 57-C at Km. 65/7-B between Shahbezner and Nigohi

stations of North Eastern Railway on 13.6.1985 and not on 15.6.1985. As a result of the accident one baby 1½ months old died and 6 persons sustained injuries including 4 grievous. All were occupants of the tractor trolley.

The cost of damage to public property has been estimated at Rs. 10.00/- There was no damage to Railway property.

(c) and (d) A Departmental Committee enquired into this accident and according to their findings, the accident occurred due to gross negligence on the part of tractor driver.

Funds for Conversion of Guntur-Nadikude Rail Lines

548. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allotted for the conversion of Guntur-Nadikude line into broad gauge during 1985-86 ; and

(b) when the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Rs. 1,000/-.

(b) The completion of the line will depend on the availability of resources in the coming years.

South Korean Proposal to Deepen Paradip Port to Accommodate Larger Vessels

549. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING & TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "Paradip Port deepening plan under study" appearing in Patriot dated 25 June, 1985 wherein it has been reported that Government are considering a South Korean Proposal to deepen Paradip Port in Orissa to accommodate vessels upto 200,000 DWT capacity against 60,000 DWT as at present ;

(b) if so, whether the proposal was mooted with the idea of increasing ore exports to the Pohang Iron and Steel Co., of South Korea which is scheduled to be operated by 1987 ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether any proposal in this regard has been received from Government of Orissa also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A proposal has been received from M/s. Hyundai Corporation through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India for development of Paradip Port to receive Iron Ore carriers upto 2,00,000 DWT. M/s. Hyundai Corporation has expressed its willingness to MMTC to associate themselves with the construction and expansion of the Port facilities and in extending credits. The proposal, envisages deepening of the approach channel, entrance channel turning basin from 12.25 to 20 Metres, and setting up a new berth with mechanised handling facilities for export of iron ore.

(c) No, Sir.

Flight of Engineers from Sardar Sarovar Project

550. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the Press report appearing in the Indian Express dated 24 June, 1985 regarding flight of nearly 400 families including engineers and assistant engineers from the Kevadia colony of Sardar Sarovar Project of the Narmada Dam Scheme who were forced to leave their houses in the wake of reign of terror unleashed by certain persons ;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ; and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The news item in the Indian Express of 24th June 1985 has been referred to the Government of Gujarat for their comments.

Laying Down of Norms for Public Schools

551. SHRI LALIT MAKEN :

SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many Public Schools, which have taken the land from Government on concessional rates are functioning like Commercial Companies; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating to intervene and fix up the fees in such schools and also lay down norms for admission of children by amending the Delhi Schools Education Act and Rules ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Public Schools are generally taken to be those schools which are members of the Indian Public Schools Conference, which is a voluntary association registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Such schools are eligible for allotment of land on concessional rates. Delhi Administration have informed that they have not received any complaint that unaided recognised schools are functioning like Commercial Companies.

(b) Delhi Administration has reported a proposal to amend Section 17 of the Delhi Schools Education Act, 1973 is under their consideration to have a check on the enhancement of fees by Public Schools. So far as admission in Public Schools is concerned, there is no proposal under consideration of Delhi Administration at present.

Inundation of Metro Railway Track

553. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Metro Railway authority at Calcutta

failed to run metro train in the first hour on 4 June, 1985 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether inundation of tracks after rains is still a problem for the Metro authority ;

(d) if so, the steps taken to tackle this problem; and

(e) how many times the Metro railway have been inundated by rains in last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Train running was deliberately suspended for first two hours on 4th June, 1985 as a matter of abundant caution because of first heavy shower in Calcutta after opening of Metro Railway for commercial service.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Metro Railway operation started on 24th October, 1984. No inundation has taken place since then.

Work at Palghat Region of National Highway No. 47

554. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain items of work like providing 75 BM course in reaches between k.m. 182/2 to 186/900 and 186/900 to 190/200 at the Palghat region of the National Highway No. 47 are pending consideration of his Ministry ;

(b) if so, when is it likely to be sanctioned; and

(c) the reason for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The estimates in question amounting to Rs. 29.471 lakhs and Rs. 19.949 lakhs for strengthening with B.M. in reaches between km. 182/2 to 186/900

and km 186/900 to 190/200 of NH 47 have already been sanctioned vide this Ministry's letters No. RW/N-47/KR/656/85 dated 18-6-85 and No. RW/NH 47/KL/657/85 dated 6-6-85 respectively.

Free Higher Education

555. SHRI D.K. NAIKAR : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the higher education has become costly affair for poor people; and

(b) if so, whether the Government is thinking to provide education at all levels free of cost ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) The tuition fee structure in higher education has remained static during the past few decades, and the cost of education for the students has not increased significantly during this period.

(b) The Government have decided to provide education free of cost for women upto the higher secondary stage. There is no proposal to extend the same facility to boys or to provide higher education free of cost.

Conversion of Hospet-Hubli Rail Line into Broad Gauge

556. SHRI D.K. NAIKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for conversion of metre gauge rail line from Hospet to Hubli into broad gauge ;

(b) if so, the nature of recommendation and extent of financial involvement ; and

(c) when the work of conversion is likely to be taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey had been carried out by the Southern Railway and South Central Railway for

Gauge Conversion of M.G. lines from Miraj to Bangalore and connected Branch lines into B.G. including Hubli-Hospet section of South Central Railway.

(b) and (c) The cost of the integrated project was estimated to be Rs. 367.54 crores based on 1981-82 price level and was not found to be financially viable. Due to non-remunerativeness of the project, constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand, it was not considered feasible to take up this project for the present.

Joint Consultative Machinery in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

557. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme of Joint Consultative Machinery has been approved by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Board of Governors in its 45th Meeting held on 22.5.1985 ;

(b) if so, what are its salient features ; and

(c) how the representatives of the different employees associations will be represented therein ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme of Joint Consultative Machinery is aimed at promoting harmonious relations and securing the greatest measure of co-operation between the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and its employees. Joint Consultative Machinery of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan consists of an official side and a staff side. No person who is not an employee of the Sangathan is included as a member of the staff side of the Council. The scope of the Council includes all matters relating to the conditions of service and work, welfare of the employees, and improvement of efficiency and standard of work etc. Subject to the final authority of the Board of Governors of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, agreements reached between the two sides of the Council, become operative. In the case of final disagreement on matters for which

compulsory arbitration is provided in the Scheme, provision exists for referring the matter to a Board of Arbitration to be appointed by the Ministry of Education. In other cases, the Board of Governors is to take action according to its own judgement.

(c) According to the Constitution of the Council, not more than 7 members on the staff side are to be nominated by the Recognised Associations as per the following distribution :

- i) Teachers Association...4
- ii) Non-teaching Staff Association ...2
- iii) Headquarters Staff Association ...1

Priority to Roads in Seventh Plan

558. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that roads are very important for a nation for development in all its spheres ;

(b) if so, whether top priority is given to roads in the Sevens Plan ; and

(c) if so, the total allocation for roads during the Seventh Plan ;

(d) if not, the reasons for not giving the top priority to roads ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) The importance of roads as a part of the total transportation system in the country is well recognised.

(c) and (d) The sector-wise allocations will be finalised after the draft 7th Plan has been approved by the National Development Council.

Irrigation Projects to have Drinking Water Supply Component

559. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided that all irrigation projects should have a drinking water supply component for the benefit of rural population ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Koraput-Rayagada Rail Line

560. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :

SHRI K. PRADHANI :

PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of 165 kilometre long rail line between Koraput and Rayagada has been delayed ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) when it is likely to be completed .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work is being progressed according to availability of funds, which are inadequate.

(c) The completion of the line will depend upon availability of resources in the coming years.

Cripples Population

561. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :

PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India tops in cripples' population in the World ;

(b) if so, details thereof ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to prevent people becoming cripple ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :

(a) and (b) No statistics are available to indicate that population of the crippled in India is the highest in the world. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 10% of the population in any country in South East Asia suffers from one type of disability or other.

(c) Government is running several national programmes which, inter alia, aim at preventing disabilities caused by polio-myelitis, birth-problems, blindness, leprosy etc. Rehabilitation services are also provided through several institutions.

Teesta Barrage Canal Project

562. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total plan outlay for Teesta Barrage Canal Project in West Bengal during Sixth Plan period and how that has been spent;

(b) the target date for the completion of the work and the latest progress;

(c) whether any such proposal for inclusion in the Seventh Plan came from West Bengal Government to his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Against the Plan outlay of Rs. 104.10 crores for the Teesta Barrage Project, the expenditure incurred during the VI Plan period is Rs. 124.96 crores,

(b) The State Government has indicated a target of 1990 for the completion of the first sub-stage of Stage I of the Teesta Barrage Project. An expenditure of Rs. 178.44 crores has been incurred upto end of VI Plan against the latest estimated cost of Rs. 400 crores for this sub-stage of the Project.

(c) and (d) The Working Group of the planning Commission has recommended that the entire spill-over amount of Rs. 221.56 crores be provided for in the VII Plan period. The details of the State's VII Plan are yet to be finalised by the State.

Procurement of Wagons

563. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of wagons necessary for the Railways at present;

(b) the proposal of his Ministry to procure the wagons during the Seventh Plan;

(c) whether it is a fact that the transportation of articles/cargo has been affected due to shortage of wagons in the railways ;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the proposals of his Ministry to meet this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a), (c) to (e) The target for revenue earning freight traffic to be carried by the Railways during 1985-86 has been fixed at 250 million tonnes. Despite the shortage of wagons, etc., Due to financial constraints, the Railways are trying to achieve the target.

(b) The Seventh Plan proposals have yet not been finalised.

Freight Concession to Public Sector Undertakings

564. SHRI INDARJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had made a suggestion in Calcutta sometime in the month of June this year that the Public Sector Undertakings using railways for the movement of goods and raw materials can buy their own wagons and the railways will give freight concessions; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed scheme and response of the Public Sector Undertakings thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Minister of State for Railways had indicated that if the Public Sector units could

procure their own wagons, the Railways could consider a scheme of giving a suitable rebate in freight charges to them for movement in such wagons. The scheme is still in the formative stage and response of Public Sector Undertakings will be known after the details are finalised.

Production of Rakes and Power to Introduce New Trains

565. SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether introduction of new trains for want of additional rakes and power have been shelved disregarding passengers needs and urgency of cargo movement;

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving priority to boost production of rakes and power generation so that new trains can be introduced;

(c) whether there is any plan in this regard and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Railways have decided to go slow in the introduction of new trains on account of shortage of coaches and locomotives as also other constraints.

(b) to (d) Extreme shortage of resources have compelled the railways to severely restrict their programme for production of locomotives and coaches for the present.

World Bank Loan for Transport Sector

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has given our country a loan of dollar 200 million for transport sector for massive repairs and rehabilitation work;

(b) if so, the works which are being considered in respect of Rajasthan State under this Project;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the States in respect of which works are being considered under this project; and

(e) whether these States are equally developed or backward as Rajasthan is in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) to (e) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and improvement works are sanctioned keeping in view the existing condition of the National Highway, traffic intensity, availability of resources and inter-se priority on an all-India basis. The World Bank has agreed to provide a loan of US \$ 200 million for development of six National Highway projects in the States of Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These projects have been selected keeping in view the traffic requirement, priority on an all-India basis and economic justification and not on consideration of economic backwardness of a region. No projects on a National Highway in Rajasthan has been covered under this loan.

New Curriculum for Medicine Education

567. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Indian Medicine Council has proposed new curriculum for medicine education in the country so as to curtail the period of education which is unduly long and involves time to ten years to achieve Post Graduation, whereas the period involved in technical education at the same level is much less ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : The total duration of professional courses in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha systems after 12th pass is 8½ years including three years Post-Graduation. The question of fixing minimum entry qualifications in the light of the recommendations of the Central Council of Indian Medicine for the professional degree courses in Ayurveda, Unani

and Siddha systems of medicine is receiving the attention of the Government.

Fake Railway Tickets

568. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of fake railway tickets detected during the last three years alongwith the number of such tickets and the name of the stations; and

(b) the number of cases in which the Railway employees were involved and action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) 94 cases of fake Railway tickets involving 301 tickets were detected during the last three years viz., 1982 to 1984. A statement indicating the names of the stations is given below.

(b) 13 Railway staff suspected to have been involved in sale of fake tickets have been transferred to different places and Court cases against 4 are pending.

Statement

Nasik,	Kalyan,	Pune,	Allahabad,
Siwait,	Mau Aima,	Jaunpur,	Shri Krishnanagar,
Koiripur,	Bhopia Mau,	Ugu,	Harpalganj,
Kanpur,	Badshahpur,	Bapatpur,	Ras Bareilly,
Gosaiganj,	Phulpur,	Safipur,	Methi Tikkur,
Tata Nagar,	Howrah,	Ajmer and	Bijainagar

[Translation]

Dam and Falgo River

569. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar Government have sent to the Central Government a scheme for approval in regard to the construction of Dam on Falgo river at a place under Barachatti police station in Gaya district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the date on which the Government have received the papers regarding this scheme;

(c) whether Government have given their approval; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) The Mohane Reservoir

Project submitted by Bihar Government in 1982 includes, a dam near Bhaluachatti on Mohane River which is a tributary of the Phalgu river. After examination of the project the Central Water Commission sent their comments to the State Government. The replies of the State Government to most of the comments have been received on 18th July, 1985 and are under examination. The techno-economic feasibility of this Project is yet to be established.

[English]

Movement of Coal from Collieries

570. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that railways do not lift coal from the collieries owing to non-availability of wagons; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to make availability of wagons in the collieries for the movement of coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Seventh Plan outlay for Railways

571 SHRI SODE RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Seventh Plan outlay for railways has been fixed at Rs. 12,000 crores; and

(b) if so, the details of allocations made therefrom State-wise/Union Territory-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) and (b) The Seventh Plan has not yet been finalised. The railway network, it may, however, be pointed out, is an integrated system and, therefore, the allocation is not decided statewide or union territory-wise.

Availability of Basic Drugs in Dr. R. M. L. Hospital

572. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether basic drugs and surgical requirements are now available at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : All the essential Drugs and Surgical requirements in sufficient quantity are available in the hospital.

Criteria for Grant of U.G.C. Assistance to Universities

573. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the basis and procedure of deciding quantum of financial assistance to the Universities by the University Grants Commission ;

(b) the total amount of grants given by the University Grants Commission to different Universities, University-wise during the Sixth Plan ; and

(c) the Seventh Plan proposals of the University Grants Commission in respect of grants to the Universities ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) On finalisation of each five year Plan, the UGC indicates to each university a tentative allocation of the general development grants that would be available during the Plan. This allocation is determined on the basis of the stage of development of each university, the nature and type of programmes offered by it, its student enrolment and the progress of implementation of plan schemes approved earlier. Universities are then asked to submit their proposals within the allocation so indicated. These proposals are examined by the Visiting Committees constituted for each university and on their recommendation grants are approved by the Commission. In addition to the general development grants so sanctioned, the Commission provides grants for various quality improvement programmes. Proposals received from universities under this category of programmes are assessed by Committees set up for such programmes and grants are sanctioned on the basis of the norms laid down by the Commission.

(b) A statement showing the total grants paid to the various universities during the Sixth Plan is given below.

(c) The tentative allocation for various universities in the Seventh Plan has not yet been decided as the Seventh Plan outlay for higher education has not yet been finalised.

Statement

Name of the University	Total grant sanctioned during Sixth Five Year Plan
	(Rupees in lakhs)
CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES	
1. Aligarh	1002.45
2. Banaras	1222.44
3. Delhi	1183.69
4. Hyderabad	555.37
5. Jawahar Lal Nehru	728.72
6. North Eastern Hill University	970.58
7. Visva Bharati	150.03
INSTITUTIONS DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITIES	
1. B.I.T.S., Pilani	67.10
2. C.I.E.F.L., Hyderabad	131.63
3. Gandhigram Rural Instt., Madurai.	53.22
4. Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad	105.60
5. I.I.Sc., Bangalore	946.33
6. I.S.M., Dhanbad	135.44
7. J.M.I., New Delhi	287.57
8. T.I. Social Sciences, Bombay.	56.15
9. Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya, Hardwar.	24.49
10. Banasthali Vidyapith, P.O. Banasthali Vidyapith (Raj.)	7.22
11. Dayalbagh Educational Instt, Agra	65.14
12. Sh. Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning; Prasanthi, Nilayam-515134.	53.22
STATE UNIVERSITIES	
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	
Andhra	469.80
Jawaharlal Nehru Tech.	93.48
Kakatiya	80.92
Nagarjuna	67.29
Osmania	373.78
Sri Krishne Devaraya	59.89
Sri Venkateswara	288.11
<i>Assam</i>	
Dibrugarh	89.97
Gaubati	173.66

Name of the University	Total grant sanctioned during Sixth Five Year Plan
	(Rupees in lakhs)
<i>Bihar</i>	
Bhagalpur	114.53
Bihar	83.09
K.S. Dharbhanga	26.38
Magadh	71.55
L.N. Mithila	9.22
Patna	168.33
Ranchi	93.68
<i>Gujarat</i>	
Bhavnagar	0.80
Gujarat	185.27
M.S. University of Baroda	381.78
Sardar Patel	172.42
Saurashtra	135.36
South Gujarat	106.32
<i>Haryana</i>	
Kurukshetra	144.47
Maharishi Dayanand	102.99
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>	
Himachal Pradesh	103.89
<i>Jammu & Kashmir</i>	
Jammu	123.53
Kashmir	133.65
<i>Karnataka</i>	
Bangalore	205.62
Karnataka	167.44
Mysore	181.03
<i>Kerala</i>	
Calicut	102.99
Cochin	159.23
Kerala	190.73
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	
Awadesh Pratap Singh	61.19
Bhopal	74.88
Indira Kala Sangest	18.89
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya	76.73
Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya	86.59

Name of the University**Total grant sanctioned
during Sixth Five Year Plan****(Rupees in lakhs)*****Madhya Pradesh***

Jiwaji	58.53
Ravi Shankar	47.62
Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya	132.26
Vikram	108.49

Maharashtra

Bombay	495.46
Marathwada	137.12
Nagpur	179.72
Poona	360.33
S.N.D.T. Women's	155.79
Shivaji	98.12

Manipur

Manipur	87.41
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Orissa

Berhampur	94.48
Sambalpur	104.67
Utkal	139.39

Punjab

Guru Nanakdev	109.81
Panjab	479.77
Punjabi	112.02

Rajasthan

Jodhpur	182.44
Rajasthan	298.63
Udaipur	81.49

Tamil Nadu

Annamalai	178.16
Bharathidasan	0.10
Madras	368.05
Madurai Kamraj	225.05
Tamil University	2.18

Uttar Pradesh

Agra	61.26
Allahabad	236.28
Avadh	5.57
Bundelkhand	0.17
Garhwal	43.93

Name of the University**Total grant sanctioned
during Sixth Five Year Plan****(Rupees in lakhs)****Utter Pradesh**

Gorakhpur	154.20
Kanpur	35.51
Kashi Vidyapith	39.50
Kumaon	67.65
Lucknow	139.97
Meerut	92.54
Roorkee	643.91
Sampurnanand Sanskrit	28.06

West Bengal

Burdwan	145.28
Calcutta	412.70
Jadavpur	345.38
Kalyani	107.48
North Bengal	96.75
Rabindra Bharati	68.35

**Manufacture of Anti-Cancer Drugs by
Central Council for Research in
Ayurveda and Siddha**

574. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether patients have been taken for
manufacture of anti-cancer drugs by Central
Council for Research in Ayurveda and
Siddha as appeared in News-time dated
27 May, 1985 and if so, details thereof ;
and

(b) whether efficacy of these drugs has
been fully and independently established
including their toxicological effects after
clinical trials and if so, the details
thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION
AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARA-
NAND) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Council
for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha has
patented the process of isolation of Sola-
marine from the plant *Solanum trilobatum*
which is being tried as an anti-cancer drug.

(b) The drug is being tried as an anti-
cancer drug and preliminary observations

are promising. The drug was tested for
toxicity on mice in one gm per kg. body
weight orally, and in the dose of 500 mgm/
kg body weight inter-peritoneally and it did
not produce any toxicity.

Inter-State Telugu-Ganga Project

575. SHRI G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND
POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether funds have become a major
constraint in the inter-State Telugu-Ganga
Project ;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government
would take steps to help in the matter by
suitably finding resources and amicable
solution of any problems arising in imple-
mentation as the project will benefit a large
population; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION
AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARA-
NAND) : (a) to (c) The Governments of
Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have not
reported any constraint of financial resources
for the execution of the Telugu Ganga

Project. The Telegu Ganga project is yet to be cleared by the Central Water Commission and thereafter accepted by the Planning Commission for implementation in the States' Plans. The Project also involves certain inter-State issues on which the Centre is in touch with the concerned State Governments.

Accidents Involving DTC Buses during 1984-85

576. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed and injured in accidents involving D.T.C. buses or due to negligence of the bus staff during 1984-85.

(b) whether Government propose to take more strict steps to reduce accidents ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) During year 1984-85, 1440 persons were injured and the 258 persons were killed in accidents involving DTC buses.

(b) and (c) The Corporation have taken the following steps to minimise the accidents :—

- (i) The drivers are instructed to observe a speed limit and to observe traffic rules. The commuters through short slopgans painted in the buses are advised not to travel on footboard or to board or alight while the bus is in motion. Besides, suitable instructions regarding observance of traffic rules and other conditions for avoidance of accidents are also issued through mass media.
- (ii) To ensure deployment of properly trained drivers, only persons with a minimum of three years experience of driving of heavy vehicles are recruited.
- (iii) Before the drivers are given line duty they are imparted special

training in DTC Training School in relation to safe driving and route acquaintance.

- (iv) Special squads have been deputed to check both the driving habits of drivers on line and control over-speeding. Drivers with faulty driving habits are withdrawn or sent to the Training School for refresher courses.
- (v) Every effort is made to improve the maintenance of vehicles.
- (vi) The drivers are regularly acquainted with the traffic rules and other road safety measures through films, slides and other audio-visual methods with the help of Traffic Police authorities.
- (vii) An incentive scheme has been introduced whereby the drivers with accident free records during the quarter are given a cash reward which progressively increases with every quarter.

Doubling of Khurda Road-Puri Rail Line

577. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether proposal to construct a double line between Khurda Road and Puri in Orissa is under consideration of Government ;

(b) whether the said proposal is pending before Government since long ;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in clearance of this proposal ; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of the said proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Although some suggestions for doubling of railway line between Khurda Road and Puri have been received, the quantum of traffic on Khurda Road-Puri

section does not justify taking up of doubling at present. The question would be reviewed as and when traffic develops.

Installation of Automatic Warning Systems on High Density Routes

578. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of the railways in installing Automatic Warning Systems on high density routes has been painfully slow;

(b) whether it is a fact that not even a single work undertaken during the period 1968-69 to 1978-79 has been completed and made operational so far ;

(c) whether the delay in installation of Automatic Warning Systems has affected the safety in operation ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take for the speedy completion of Automatic Warning Systems ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The progress of installing "Automatic Warning System" now called "Auxiliary Warning System" on high density routes has been slow.

(b) The work was progressed on Gaya-Mughalsarai and Howrah-Burdwan sections of Eastern Railway during 1974-1979 in stages by importing equipment, and was completed in 1980. In all, 21 locomotives and 12 E M Us were fitted with the cab equipment and 189 track magnets were provided at different locations in these sections. Due to heavy thefts of aluminium-bodied magnets from the track, the system did not prove satisfactory. It was, therefore, decided to modify the design and try track magnets with fibre glass body to obviate thefts.

The modified design of track magnet with fibre glass body has since been developed and is being tried on Howrah-Burdwan chord and main line suburban sections of Eastern Railway;

In the mean time indigenous development of this system also was entrusted to Messrs-Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) in association with Research, Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) of the Indian Railways.

The Auxiliary Warning System is also being provided on Churchgate-Virar suburban section of Western Railway which was sanctioned in 1976-77. Trials are underway and the results so far are satisfactory.

(c) It is expected that the installation of Auxiliary Warning System will help in eliminating chances of accidents due to human error such as drivers passing the signals at danger. When the system is commissioned on a whole section, and experience is gained for a few years under conditions obtained on Indian Railways, a realistic assessment would be feasible.

(d) The Railways have been asked to speed up the execution of works connected with the provision of Auxiliary Warning System. A high level committee has been set up in the Railway Board to monitor the progress.

Unloading of Fertilizers at New Mangalore Cochin and Other Ports

579. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an inordinate delay in unloading fertilizers from vessel at New Mangalore, Cochin and certain other ports causing unnecessary trouble to the ship owners ;

(b) if so, whether the delay in unloading fertilizers will affect the agricultural activities in the ensuing agricultural season ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to speed up the unloading work at these ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z R. ANSARI) : (a) There has been some increase in turnaround time of vessels bringing fertilizers to ports of

New Mangalore and Cochin, due to a number of factors such as nature of cargo, poor offtake from Port's transit sheds to hinter-land destinations, unsatisfactory industrial relations, breakdown in equipments board the ship etc.

(b) No, Sir. Adequate fertilizers have been supplied for Kharif 1985.

(c) Government is continuously monitoring the rate of discharge and issuing necessary instructions to ports from time to time to achieve quick turnround of fertilizer vessels.

Computerisation Programme for Freight Operations

580. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :

SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken decision to implement the freight operation computerisation programme ;

(b) whether Government have sought the assistance of some foreign firm for this purpose ;

(c) if so, the name of such firm ;

(d) the amount earmarked for implementing such programme ; and

(e) the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Indian Railways have appointed CANAC Consultants the Consultancy Wing of Canadian National Railways-for supply of software and provision of consultancy assistance in the implementation programme for computerisation of freight operations.

(d) Total amount earmarked for implementation of computerisation programme for freight operations is Rs. 520 crores, of which Rs. 350 crores will be spent on development of computer communications.

(e) A Project Authority has been set up by the Ministry of Railways to undertake the job of planning, developing and implementation of the programme.

Hostels for Working Women in Orissa

581. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked in 1985-86 for the construction of hostels for working women ;

(a) the number of hostels for working women which have been set up at different places in Orissa so far ; and

(c) whether Government have a proposal to set up some more number of such hostels in Orissa during the above financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) A provision of Rs. 170 lakhs has been made for the Scheme of Assistance for the construction of Hostel Buildings for Working Women with a Day Care Centre in the Budget Estimates for the year 1985-86.

(b) Since inception of the Scheme in 1972-73, assistance have been provided to the voluntary organisations for setting up 7 Working Women's Hostels in Orissa so far.

(c) Under this Scheme, no State/Union Territory-wise allocations are made. Projects are sanctioned on the receipt of the proposals from the voluntary organisations and availability of funds. No new proposal from Orissa is pending with the Ministry. However, in 1984-85 two hostels were sanctioned at Dhenkanal and Olatapur.

Outlay for Orissa's Irrigation Projects in Seventh Plan

582. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total outlay fixed for execution of major and medium irrigation projects in Orissa in Seventh Plan ;

(b) the strategy proposed to be adopted for completion of ongoing medium and major Irrigation projects in Orissa in the above plan period ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKRANAND)

(a) The approved outlay for major and medium irrigation projects in Orissa during the Seventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 550 crores.

(b) and (c) The strategy for the Seventh Plan is to allocate adequate funds for completion of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects which would yield results during the plan period and also to provide committed outlays for externally aided projects.

Introduction of Passenger Service between Roha-Diva and Bombay

583. **SHRI D. B. PATIL** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of Konkan railway line upto Roha has been completed ;

(b) whether there is a demand to start a passenger service between Roha-Diva and Bombay ; and

(c) if so, when this passenger service is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question of passenger service will arise only after the Apta-Roha line has been completed, depending on availability of coaches.

[Translation]

Central Approval for 132 K.V. Transmission Line of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

584. **SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA** : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have received any proposal for laying the Seoni-Pench 132 K. V. transmission line through reserved forest areas of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 ;

(b) whether June, 1985 was the target fixed to complete the said line ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in granting approval to the said proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board had fixed June, 1985 as the target date for completion of the Seoni-Pench 132 KV transmission line.

(c) The Seoni-Pench transmission line passes through forest areas in Maharashtra as well as Madhya Pradesh. Proposals for forest clearance under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 were framed and forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Department of Forests & Wild Life) by Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in October and December, 1984 respectively. After obtaining certain clarifications the necessary forest clearance approval was conveyed in May, 1985. The commissioning of the transmission line is expected to match the commissioning of the first unit of the Pench Hydro Electric Project.

[English]

Amount Spent on Ramagundam Plant

585. **SHRI G. BHOOPATHY** : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of Ramagundam Thermal Power Plant and how much has been spent on it so far ;

(b) how much more amount is likely to be spent to complete the project ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Saudi Arabia agreed to lend 5 crore American Dollars for the Second Stage of Ramagundam Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) and (b) The estimated cost of the 2100 MW Ramagundam super thermal power project, including the associated transmission system, based on cost data of the second quarter of 1984, is Rs. 1940.91 crores. An expenditure of about Rs. 748 crores has been incurred upto the end of June, 1985. Subject to price escalation, the further amount likely to be spent on completion of the project is about Rs. 1193 crores

(c) The Saudi Fund for Development has agreed to lend an amount of Saudi Riyals 172 million (US \$ 48 crores approx) for the 3x500 MW units of the project,

Construction of Vessels for Oil and Natural Gas Commission by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

586 **SHRI S.M. BHATTAM :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Off-shore fabrication Yard of the Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam will construct offshore structures and specialised vessels to meet the needs of ONGC for the exploration work ;

(b) whether the ONGC placed orders on the above Shipyard and whether it began fabrication of offshore Platforms for ONGC ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the financial implications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Hindustan Shipyard Limited is constructing offshore structures such as well-head plat-

forms for ONGC's needs at its offshore fabrication yard.

Other specialised vessels such as Drill ship, OPSSVs are under construction in the existing Shipyard.

(b) Yes. Orders have been placed and fabrication has commenced.

(c) ONGC have placed orders for two well platforms at an estimated cost of Rs. 36 crores, on turn-key basis for construction, delivery and commissioning at Bombay High by 31.3.86. This is in addition to the orders for one Drill-ship and four OPSSVs, estimated to cost approximately Rs. 100 crores.

Number of Officers Employed in Hindustan Shipyard Ltd and Emoluments Paid to Them

587 **SHRI S.M. BHATTAM :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Officers (Class I and II), Class III and workmen employed in Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(b) the total emoluments paid to them, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) The staff in the Hindustan Shipyard Limited is not categorised as Class I, Class II and Class III. The complement of the employees is categorised as officers, staff and workmen, whose strength during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 is given below :

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Officers	607	594	613
Staff	1946	1937	1969
Workmen	5186	5160	5068

(b) The total amount paid yearwise is as follows :

	(Rupees in lakhs)		
	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Officers	185.37	204.14	215.77
Staff	356.05	376.14	479.62
Workmen	785.53	858.95	1265.62

Wireless System on Indian Railways

588. SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to close down the wireless system on Indian Railways due to its being uneconomical ;

(b) if so, the present expenditure incurred on wireless system both for maintenance and operating staff ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transfer the staff of wireless to Telegraph and Teleprinter offices ; and

(d) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, the present expenditure incurred on staff for wireless system is Rs. 1.2 crores per annum approximately ;

(c) and (d) With the introduction of modern communication systems for messages and data transmission, the wireless systems are being gradually replaced by microwave teleprinter circuits on programmed basis. The staff of wireless system thereby rendered surplus is being utilised for working the teleprinter links as and when they are introduced in replacement of wireless system.

(Translation)

Provision of Life Saving Drugs to Patients Free of Cost

589. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an eminent neurologist has requested the Government to provide life saving drugs to patients free of cost ;

(b) whether he has also requested that these drugs should be exempted from levy ;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering these suggestions and whether any order in this connection has been issued by the Government and if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the difficulties being experienced therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is not aware of any request made by an eminent neurologist for supply of life saving drugs free of cost to patients.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Power Finance Corporation

590. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to set up the Power Finance and Development Corporation is under the consideration of the Government ;

(b) if so, what would be the main function of such Corporation ; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a Power Finance and Development Corporation is under examination.

Import of Self-Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing System

591. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have a proposal to import a Self-Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing System ;

(b) If so, the cost of such sophisticated rail testing system ;

(c) Whether it is going to be imported during the current financial year ;

(d) If so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Rs. 3.5 Crores

(c) and (d) No Sir. It shall be delivered in the next financial year as per stipulated delivery schedule.

New Project of Roads & Bridges in Orissa Under Central Road Fund

592. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have approved some new projects of roads and bridges in Orissa under Central Road Fund during the Seventh Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost of each of those projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The programme of Road and Bridge works in Orissa to be financed from Central Road Fund during the Seventh Five Year Plan is still under consideration in consultation with the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Location of Proposed Coach Factory in Punjab

593. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government regarding the location of the proposed Railway Coach Factory in Punjab;

(b) if so, the exact site and the time by which the factory would be established;

(c) the total estimated cost and other details of the project including the area of land sought to be acquired for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the likely date by which a decision would be taken in this regard and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes Sir. The Government of India has decided to locate the proposed Rail Coach Factory in Punjab.

(b) The Factory is proposed to be located 5 Kms. from Kapurthala on the Kapurthala-Sultanpur Road. The Factory is expected to go into initial stream of production in about 2 years.

(c) The estimated cost of the Project would be around Rs. 200 crores. The area required would be approximately 300 hectares.

(d) As advised in answer to Part (a) the decision regarding location of the Coach Factory in Punjab has already been taken.

[Translation]

Conversion of Dhaulpur-Sirmuttra Rail Line into B.G.

594. SHRI LALA RAM KEN . Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 1865 on 4 April, 1985 regarding conversion of Dhaulpur-Sirmuttra line into B.G. and state whether a provision has been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan

for conversion of the narrow gauge line from Dhaulpur to Sirmuttra into Broad gauge and the overall allocation made in this Plan for the development of railways in Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : No such proposal is under consideration. Allocation of funds is not made State-wise.

Halt Stations from Agra to Bandikui

595. SHRI LALA RAM KEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of halt station on Ajmer railway line from Agra to Bandikui and the facilities provided by the Railway Department at these halt stations;

(b) whether booking provided and other passengers facilities provided by the Railway Department are in adequate at these halt stations; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Railway administration will provide all the necessary facilities at these halt stations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Six halt stations have been provided between Agra Fort and Bandikui stations. Facilities as per existing yardsticks have been provided at all these halt stations. These facilities are considered adequate to cater to the requirements of the passenger traffic offered thereat.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Upgraded Sub-Centres and Construction of Mini Health Centre

596. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some sub-centres have been upgraded and mini health centres have been constructed under Centrally sponsored schemes in different States during the Sixth plan;

(b) if so, the number of such mini health centres constructed and the number of sub-centres upgraded in Orissa in Sixth Plan period; and

(c) the Central assistance spent on implementing those programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) There was no scheme of upgrading of sub-centres or construction of Mini Health Centres during the 6th Five Year Plan.

Introduction of a Superfast Train between Bombay and Varanasi

597. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no superfast train between Bombay and Varanasi ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce a superfast train between Bombay and Varanasi at least twice a week ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVARAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Losses in Indian Shipping Industry

598. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that losses in Indian shipping industry are mounting up;

(b) if so, whether labour discontent and unrest is one of the main causes;

(c) if so, the steps proposed for ensuring workers whole hearted participation;

(d) whether insufficient port facilities are also a contributory factor; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c) Due to unprecedented global recession,

most of the shipping companies are incurring losses during the last 5 years. Labour discontent and unrest in shipping companies is not a main cause for the losses of the shipping companies which are mainly due to very low freight market prevailing as a result of excess tonnage chasing limited cargo.

(d) and (e) Various schemes of developing Port facilities leading to substantial addition to Port capacities are constantly being implemented for adequately meeting the existing/projected traffic and shipping trends.

Demand for Review of PFA

599. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrain dealers and industry agents have sought review of prevention of Food Adulteration Act; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Suggestions have been noted.

Insurance Scheme for Cancer

600. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced through L. I. C. etc. and Insurance Scheme for cancer and if so, details thereof;

(b) whether Government also propose to consider a full and inexpensive minimal health cover for all citizens which may start first as a cover for preventive medicine;

(c) whether Government propose to improve and enlarge working of Hospitals and extending CGHS to all State capitals ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The Government of India in the Ministry

of Health and Family Welfare has not introduced any scheme for Insurance for Cancer. The News item that recently appeared in the newspapers pertains to the proposal introduced by the Indian Cancer Society in collaboration with the New India Insurance Company.

(b) Government has been providing free medical care to the poor and needy in rural and urban areas through its network of hospitals, dispensaries and health infrastructural services.

(c) The Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are continuously striving to improve and enlarge working of hospitals in the country. As regards extension of the Central Government Health Scheme to all State capitals, there is no such proposal.

Restoration of Airconditioned Berths Quota for Siwan (Bihar)

601. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a quota of two Air conditioned two-tier berths for Siwan which has now been reduced to one causing great difficulty to passengers who have to wait for months together to get the berth;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is proposed to restore the quota of two Airconditioned two-tier berths for Siwan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Due to poor utilisation the quota of 2 berths in 2-tier AC Class for Siwan by 153 Up Jayanti Janata Express has been reduced to one berth from 1-7-1985.

(c) No, Sir.

Extension of Stoppage period of Trains at Siwan Station

602. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of passengers board the railway trains at Siwan Railway Station in Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sale of tickets at Siwan is about Rs 2.5 lakh daily;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the train stop there only for two minutes as a result of which it becomes difficult for all the passengers to board the train and many passengers are left behind; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to extend the stoppage period of trains from two minutes to at least five minutes at Siwan Station for the facility of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The trains are already scheduled to stop ranging from 5 to 25 minutes.

(d) Does not arise.

Invitation received by Bhopal Doctors from Medical Association in U. S. to Discuss Bhopal Gas Disaster

603. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Senior Doctors of Bhopal both private and Government have received invitations from various medical associations in the United States to participate in Seminars or meetings to discuss the Bhopal gas disaster; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Government do not have any specific information about private doctors receiving such invitations. However, no government doctor has received any such invitation.

(b) Does not arise.

12, 00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Report and Review on the working of University of Hyderabad for the period from 1st April, 1983 of 31 March, 1984 and Statement for delay in laying these papers, Annual Report and Review on the working of Visva Bharati, Santiniketan for 1983-84 and Statement for delay in laying these papers and Annual Accounts of Regional Engineering College Silchar for 1983-84.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the period from 1st April, 1983 to 31st March, 1984.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the period from 1st April, 1983 to 31st March, 1984.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No LT-1155/85]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 1983-84.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 1983-84.
- (4) A Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for

delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1156/85]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Silchar, for the year 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1157/85]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS ROSE

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Before you proceed further, I want to draw your attention to the fact that we have given a notice on a very important issue. It is the question of the slum improvement scheme financed by the Centre at Dharavi where there is said to be a lot of corruption...

MR. SPEAKER: As I had told you that day, I have asked for information regarding that. When that comes we can discuss it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You are getting information about Dharavi?

MR. SPEAKER: If there is any further question I will see.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Datta Samant, your adjournment motion I have not allowed. That concerns a judgment of the Supreme Court which we cannot discuss here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot intervene. You can move some Bill to amend the law. I am helpless. I cannot do anything.

SHRI DATTA SAMANT

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed. You can move a private Member's Bill or amendment or whatever you like. You can do like that, but not like this. ...

* Not recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am bound by the Rules of the House. You may feel something but I cannot go by what you say. I am not allowing anybody on this matter...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I must explain to you. Mr. Samant, you please listen to me. ...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Look here. You will be hauled up for privilege. ...

(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Samant, I cannot allow you. I am telling something which you must listen first. You must realise what you are doing. You have other means. You can move a Private Member's Amendment or anything like that which can come on the floor of the House. Here it is clearly stated:

"The wisdom of the judgment of the Supreme Court cannot be questioned on the floor of the House. It is not proper. Courts only interpret the law passed by the Parliament and where Members feel that the law is otherwise than what has been interpreted by the courts, they can have the law amended"

That is open to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not barring you. I have not barred you from bringing an amendment. You can bring it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are taking up everything one by one. We cannot take up all of them at the same time. You can come to me, I will let you know.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Datta Samant, you are becoming irresponsible. You are making some irresponsible statements. I have not allowed him. It will not form part of the record because he is making very irresponsible statements. ...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Anything can happen. What can I do! Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : You can bring in... Shri Datta Samant, I will name you if you do not sit down now. I have had enough of it.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : I differ with your decision and I walk out.
1205 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Datta Samant left the House)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Sir, Government of India has taken a decision to close all the modern rice mills in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you given any notice ?

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, I have already given a notice under Rule 197.

MR. SPEAKER : We will look into it. Whatever you have given me, I will look into it. I have already allowed a statement under Rule 377 on this.

12.06 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE-contd.

[English]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Central Research Institute for Yoga, New Delhi for 1981-82 and Statement for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Sir, on behalf of Shrimati

* Not recorded.

Mohsina Kidwai. I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Research Institute for Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 1981-82 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Central Research Institute for Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 1981-82.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1158/85]

12.07 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(English)

- (i) Need to amend the law in view of judgement of Supreme Court upholding the Government's right to dismiss an employee in public interest without holding any enquiry

SHRI LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi) : Sir, the Supreme Court judgement appearing in newspapers today justifying dismissal of a Government employee in public interest has put the 12 million Government employees in jeopardy. Who will determine as to whether the dismissal is in public interest? Surely the bureaucrats on whose mercy will depend the security of service of a Government employee.

The government should consider the judgement and the serious repercussions it will have on the Government employees. The government should come forward with necessary amendments so that the 12 million government employees are not denied the right to be heard and are not taken away from the purview of natural justice.

[Translation]

- (ii) Need for Archaeological Survey of India to take over temples of aesthetic value and develop Places of tourist interest in Devarayanadurga and Kaidala near Tumkur (Karnataka)

* SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur) : Sir, Deverayanadurga and Kaidala near Tumkur in Karnataka State are two beautiful places of tourist attraction. Kaidala is the birth place of Amara Shilpi Jakanachary- the architect of world famous temples of Belur and Halebeedu. The temples in the above mentioned places are monuments of architectural aesthetics. The architecture of these temples is attracting the attention of Internationally renowned art lovers.

Devarayanadurga is at a height of more than 5000 feet from sea level and has a salubrious climate. Even in mid summer the temperature here does not go beyond 25 degree centigrade. Many rare medicinal plants grow in abundance in this hill area and a health centre can be easily established here.

Neighbouring Nandi hills has been developed into a famous tourist centre. But both Devarayanadurga and Kaidala have been neglected and many of the temples are closed. There is no one to look after these. These temples need the protection of the Department of Archaeology of the Central Government.

Therefore, I urge the Government of India to direct the Department of Archaeology to take over these temples under its protective wings immediately and preserve them for posterity. I also urge the Government to develop both the places into tourist centres.

* The Speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

12.09 hrs.

- [Mr. Deputy Speaker IN THE CHAIR]
(iii) Demand for modernising the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. unit at Udyog Mandal in Kerala

* SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Sir, the FACT unit at Udyogmandal in Kerala is the oldest one and is almost obsolete. Therefore, its development and modernisation has become very essential.

A study of the demand pattern of chemical fertilisers in the southern parts of the country has shown that the demand is likely to grow very much in the years to come. This necessitates the expansion of the capacity to manufacture nitrogenous as well as phosphatic fertilisers. The oil refinery at Cochin can supply adequate naphtha which is the raw material for nitrogenous fertilisers.

Therefore, a unit to manufacture 1350 tonnes of ammonia and an equal quantity of urea at Udyogmandal and a D. A. P. Project at Ambalamadu should be set up. These units will be able to meet fully the growing demand for fertilisers. When emphasis is being given to achieving self sufficiency in fertilisers, I would like to say that these units will play a very vital role in achieving that goal.

Hence, I would request the Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

[English]

- (iv) Need to review India's defence preparedness in view of the apprehension of Pakistan becoming a Nuclear Power

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : It is a matter of great concern that Pakistan is willing to sign a bilateral agreement with India renouncing nuclear weapons. On the other hand very recently Pakistani scientists successfully tested the firing mechanism known as Krytrons switches. Producing a non-nuclear explosion. The U. S. A. had already expressed concern to

* The Speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.

Pakistan over its nuclear activities. It is held that the first uranium bomb dropped over Hiroshima in Japan was never tested. Only component sub-systems were statistically tested to give the confidence that the whole system would be effective. It may be recalled that in last November, the USA authorities in Texas had quietly deported a Pakistani businessman having links with the Pak Atomic Energy Commission on charges of illegally trying to ship 50 Krytrons switches to Pakistan. These switches are devices capable of switching "on" and "off" in less than one-millionth of a second.

If Pakistan acquires nuclear weapons capability, in that case it will change the entire situation in the sub-continent. In view of these developments, I urge the Government to review our defence preparedness and initiate necessary steps.

(v) Demand for a TV Centre at Keonjher,
Orissa

SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar) : Keonjhar is abundant with mineral resources. Thousands of people from all parts of Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi have been working in the Iron Ore mines in this district. There are many colleges of Arts, Science, Commerce, Law and Education located in this district.

The Government of India have set up many Television Centres in the country during the Sixth Plan. But there are many backward districts in Orissa where TV Stations have not been set up so far. Keonjher in Orissa is one such district.

The history of this district is very old. The history and culture of Orissa will remain incomplete without contribution of Keonjher. Therefore, it is one of the important district in Orissa. If all these aspects are taken into consideration the establishment of TV Station at Keonjher will required top priority. If a Television Centre is established in Keonjher district it will cater to the need of the people of its neighbouring districts Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh and Dhenkanal districts as well. The ancient literature, songs, dances and culture of the local tribes can be properly telecast through that new TV Station.

In view of this, I demand that a Television Station is set up at Keonjher, without any further delay.

(vi) Need to stop the proposed auctioning of Modern Rice Mills by Food Corporation of India

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : It is understood that the Food Corporation of India Ltd. proposes to auction their Modern Rice Mills all over the country on the plea that they are running in heavy loss, thereby adding another 10,000 people directly and indirectly involved, in the ocean of unemployment. Recently, the Modern Rice Mills in the South and North have changed to use Hush Furnace instead of cosily imported Furnace Oil and saved about 60 lakhs of rupees every year. The loss is due to various factors such as power cut, break-down of mechanical or electrical appliances, non-availability of spares, non-availability of paddy, labour and space. There is no proper planning in the running of these mills, leading to heavy loss. When Government is thinking of taking over under its fold the vital sectors, it is ironical to lease these Modern Rice Mills by conducting auction. If this is resorted to, the procurement of paddy, etc. for distribution through public distribution system will be affected. Private persons will exploit the situation and deprive the public of their daily bread. The Food Corporation of India not only proposes to lease the Modern Rice Mills but also the solvent extraction plant and godown operations. An indepth study of the fuction of these plants will amply reveal that their uneconomical functioning has been only due to ineffective management and ineffective supply of infrastructure. There is a case for more Modern Rice Mills and Godowns. In the best interest of our country; public employees, I would request Government of India to immediately act in continuing these Modern Rice Mills, etc by the F. C. I. and stop the proposed auctioning.

(vii) Construction of two Lane Bridge on National Highway No. 9 on Maniyeru river at Keesara Village in Krishna District

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawara) : The bridge at Keesara

village in Krishna district on Muniyeru River on national highway No. 9 was damaged on 14th May, 1985 due to collapse of a span resulting in serious obstruction to the traffic. The traffic was diverted through Kanchikacherla-Madhira-Nandigama route which is 60 kms extra. Damaged structure was removed and the span is connected temporarily with daily bridge arrangement. It is such an important bridge that no an average daily four thousand vehicles used to pass over it out of which three thousand are commercial vehicles. Now only buses and cars are allowed while the trucks, tractors, truck-trailors etc. have to go over the alternative route mentioned above involving huge expenditure and waste of time. So, I request the Union Government to take immediate steps for construction of two lane bridge estimated to cost Rs. 4 crores to replace the old single lane bridge which is of national importance and an important link between North and South.

[*Translation*]

(viii) Drought and famine conditions in UP and need for Central help

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, famine situation conditions have developed due to severe drought in many parts of the country. Famine stricken Adivasis in some parts of Madhya Pradesh have resorted to lost and violent activities. Such a situation can arise in many parts of UP also. The Study Team sent by U P Government to study the drought condition has given comprehensive proposals to the Central Government to face drought and famine conditions. Some of these are short term proposals to deal with the situation immediately and some are long-term proposals. The State Government have asked for considerable funds for this purpose. It is generally seen that due to non availability of Central assistance in time, the people are unable to get timely relief.

I therefore, request the Union Agriculture Minister that financial assistance asked for by the U. P. Government to meet the drought and famine situation may be provided immediately.

12.18 hrs.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS (Punjab), 1985-86 contd.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for the State of Punjab for 1985-86.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is a matter of happiness for all of us that this House will not have any need to discuss budget proposals of Punjab in future and for this we all would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister and Akali leadership. Punjab had been passing through a very critical period for the last few years, which has affected the economic condition of not only Punjab but the entire country. Not only the economic condition of the country but the unity and integrity of the country also were jeopardised. Today that sad period has ended. We all are having a sigh of relief. Like an able political leader, the Hon. Prime Minister has not cared about his ego and political animosity and has crossed all the possible hurdles and has proved that in future Rajiv ji will be remembered as one of the greatest Prime Ministers of this country. This achievement is the result of the efforts of our Prime Minister. We never imagined that it will happen so soon. It is also a matter of happiness that the Opposition has also supported the step taken by the Hon. Prime Minister and the attitude shown by Akali Dal. The entire country has supported it. We all hope that the agreement reached yesterday, about which an announcement has been made in this House, will have a favourable effect in Punjab also. It is not known how the persons, about whom doubt still prevails, will react to it. We pray to God that good sense may prevail upon them so that they may welcome this agreement. We also hope that the President of the other Akali Dal, Shri Joginder Singh will support Shri Longowal. Akali Dal and some people of Punjab, who were campaigning that they were isolated, will now come into the mainstream of the nation, Punjab

will again march ahead with firm determination in country's economic development as well as country's general growth. Sikhs and Hindus of Punjab will live in complete harmony.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Prime Minister had made announcement at Hussainiwala about many development programmes for Punjab and this would have very good impact on the economic development of the State. He made an announcement about setting up at a coach factory in Punjab, which was previously proposed to be set up in Gorakhpur, a very backward area of U.P. He made this announcement despite the fact that he comes from U.P. and he is very well aware of the poverty of Eastern U.P. I do feel sorry that U.P. lost the coach factory, but keeping in view the question of the entire nation and feelings of the people of Punjab, we welcome the announcement made by the Hon. Prime Minister. Not only we, but the people of entire U.P. welcome it.

The budget proposal, however, contains general proposals and only formalities are to be completed. I would like to submit to the Hon. Finance Minister that in case the peasants and entrepreneurs of Punjab need some more relief, the Central Government should provide it. The Central Government should also provide assistance to the popular Government as and when it is installed in Punjab because we know that the farmers and people of Punjab are very hard working. The entire country will welcome any step which will be taken by Government to help them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while discussing the political and social condition in Punjab, we want that the agreement just reached should not adversely affect the people of Haryana and other neighbouring States of Punjab which are directly concerned with this agreement.

We feel that these budget proposals will definitely yield desired results in Punjab. Besides, Punjab will play a valuable role in country's economic development, with these words I support these budget proposals.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am

very happy that ultimately Punjab problem has been solved. I, on behalf of my party, would like to congratulate the Prime Minister particularly because a solution to this problem has been found so soon as a result of his untiring efforts and broad-mindedness and an agreement had been reached yesterday. Simultaneously, I congratulate the Akali Dal leader Shri Longowal for his wisdom to signing the agreement yesterday. Prior to this he was invited many times and every time he turned down the proposed agreement. Ultimately such conditions developed there on account of which he had to sign the agreement.

We should ensure that this agreement is implemented properly. It is possible that it may help in ending bloodshed. It is also possible that certain mischievous elements continue to indulge in creating trouble and obstruct implementation of this agreement in some way or the other. It is also apprehended that Shiromani Akali Dal may not back out of this agreement due to fear. I, therefore, like to submit that it may not be taken that the problem has been solved by merely signing the agreement. I feel that unless leadership of moderate Akali Dal is strengthened, difficulties can be experienced in the implementation of this agreement and the matter can become work. The term of Punjab Assembly is about to expire. However, holding of elections is not possible there. Elections may be held there after 5 to 6 months. During this period an atmosphere should be created to hold elections peacefully.

I suggest that Akali Dal should be associated in forming the government there. If possible, they may be allowed to form government there. An interim government should be installed there as it can ensure implementation of the agreement. I feel that we should not act narrowmindedly. We should act in such a way that Akali Dal is strengthened so that it can get people's support for the agreement.

I would like to appeal to the terrorists also to abandon the path of terrorism as a lot of bloodshed has already taken place in Punjab. Now the time has come to put an end to terrorism. I am confident that past will be forgotten and everybody will work unitedly. The Chairman of the

[Shri C. Madhav Reddi]

Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee and Shri Badal are also with us. Akali Dal should be strengthened in order to establish peace.

While congratulating the hon. Prime Minister once again, I would like to request him to think-over whether an interim government can be in stalled in Punjab. It is necessary to hold elections immediately, but it is not possible. So, President's rule will have to be extended. Instead of extending the President's rule, we should amend the Constitution in such a way as to restore popular government there.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Chaudhry Ram Prakash is not there.

So, Mr. Das Munsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, to-day is a great day not only for the Congress members, but also for the entire House and the nation. I refer to the declaration made by our Prime Minister yesterday, on the Punjab issue. In the Centenary Year of the Indian National Congress, our party and the Government have once again shown to the people of this great country that we mean business, that we stand for the unity of the nation; and that to achieve it, we can afford to make any amount of sacrifice.

As you know, Sir, the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the late Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi had laid down their lives. Their martyrdom for the cause of unity of the country has not gone in vain; and people have responded to it.

On this occasion, while dealing with the Demands for Grants, I would not like to refer to matters of the past, because a new history is beginning, and we feel that it is the responsibility of all the sections of the House to see that the declaration gets support for its being put into action without any difficulty or trouble. To-day, I will appeal mainly to those young people of Punjab who, for reasons best known to them, indulge in violent acts and encourage the terrorist movement there.

Even the terrorists, during the time of our national struggle, liberation struggle, one after another, joined the call of Mahatma Gandhi, to leave the path of violence. I may quote one great leader, who later turned to be a saint, a philosopher and a real spirit of India—Swami Aurobindo. In the streets of Calcutta, editing the newspaper *Varde Matram*, it is Aurobindo, in the early stage, who tried to teach the youths of Calcutta and Bengal also in the voice which was at one time heard in China acquired by their leader that a rebel is justified and armed rebellion is the only solution. Later, he came to realise that that was not the solution and tried to find a path of peace. It inspired the entire people and they went in search of the divine soul of the nation and later he turned to be a great philosopher and saint, whom we all worship today. Similar was the case in the history of Indian civilization of Great Ashoka whose symbol in the emblem of the nation today is Dharma Ashoka. In the Kalinga war, he was known as Chanda Ashoka, but after the blood bath, he realised that peace did not lie here and the civilization what we mean in the real form did not stand for it. He also changed. So, I feel that this is the real spirit of India and the spirit that has been inherited from the past.

After the great sacrifice of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, our new leader, Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi took the entire burden on him and the great people of our country reposed their faith in him. Within six months, so nicely, accurately and effectively, he dealt with the issue in cooperation with all the political parties and other sections of the House. It again reminds us that once again India is on the right Path. Therefore, I appeal to those young people of Punjab today, who indulged in violence for many days, may be out of exuberance or other feelings or faith, once again to response not to Congress Party but to the spirit of Indian philosophy for the unity in diversity so that our task would be easier to reveal the country as well as Punjab. While I say of youths, I appeal to the government today especially those who are dealing in the Home Department in Punjab that in the real application of the document which was signed yesterday, much more now depends on the administration. The officers in the Home Department in

Punjab, the police personnel, at least by their behaviour, exchange of views, should create a good atmosphere and make them feel, those who indulged in violence, that we do not treat them as permanent enemies and hostile forces. By their exchange of talks inside the jail and outside the jail, they can really create a good climate by which they may realise that we are not treating them as our permanent enemies.

In Bengal, as you know, in the days of violence, when the so-called nationalist movement was on, a good number of young people left their study and joined the battle and took lives of the innocent people ; and many of them now in Bengal are living peacefully joining in the constructive work in the rural reconstruction. They have changed the course and got this feeling and support from the political force. When they feel isolated completely, they also expect that the administration would respond properly and try to bring them to the right path. Therefore, it is not the task of the Prime Minister ; it is the task of the grass-root officials in the administration, both in the Finance Ministry in Punjab and the Department of Home Affairs, Department of Education, to create that atmosphere, even talking to them inside jail, even communicating to them in the court. I feel that we should not from today take any approach by which they feel that they are our permanent enemies and permanent hostile forces ; that will not help us to reveal Punjab.

Secondly, sports activities of Punjab during the last few years during violence have been completely stopped

In the Grants I have seen that possibly in Punjab they have no specific Ministry for sports. I do not know the reason, because the grant is mentioned only under the Education category. Nothing is mentioned for sports.

In Punjab the only training institute for sports is the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Institute for Sports financed by the Government of India located in Patiala. During the last few years all sports activity in Punjab is completely paralysed, whether it is hockey or foot ball or swimming. And the only championship which was allotted

to Punjab they could not host it because of the prevailing conditions there.

Sports goods which form one of the important items for the gear and equipment for sports are mostly manufactured in Punjab at places like Ludhiana, Patiala and Jullundhur. I request the Finance Minister who is now looking after the Budget of Punjab to kindly see that the small scale industry in Punjab is helped properly, whether a joint collaboration can be made so that we can get the latest technology for sports gears and equipment in the country. Otherwise, during the Asian Games we found that a large number of sports goods and equipment had to be imported from West Germany and England. To meet our national and international requirements of the sports goods it is imperative that Punjab gets the latest technology in sports gears and equipment. We should encourage the small scale industries there by having some foreign collaboration that is now available in the world. We should have a single point for the manufacture of sports goods and also create the basic infrastructure, so that whatever is already available in Punjab will be sufficiently explored. Otherwise we will only lose our money.

Secondly, I refer to two important matters. In Punjab, as you know a large number of Jawans are there, who after completing a term in the Army go back to their villages in Punjab. They have hardly anything to fall back on. Generally it is presumed that in Punjab everybody has agricultural land. But it is not the fact. These Jawans should be helped to start some smallscale industries in places like Ludhiana Jullundhur and Patiala for these sports goods and equipment. I know that the Finance Ministry have a task force in every State. They can take some steps to help those Jawans who do not have any land. They can perhaps be allotted some land and some positive programme coordinating the small scale industries or some self-employment programme can be started. I know that the specific proposals announced by the Prime Minister yesterday will give a boost to this. If we go round we will find that there is land available. But there is also some limit to the capacity of the people. Where will they go ? If we do not do something now, again there will b

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

some disruptive forces and there will be trouble.

Thirdly, I will conclude by referring to only one aspect. This is about the Gurudwaras and other things. I am sorry to say — do not accuse me as parochial, I am for the country and all those things. But the fact remains that the greatest amount of sacrifice during the national struggle and after the struggle was done by every part of India; I do not question. But in terms of leaving the homeland and changing the course of events it was mostly done by Punjab and Bengal. In Pakistan it was done by others, but here in India it was done mostly by the Sikhs and Hindus — among them mostly Bengalis. Even after independence the same thing is happening. But now something has yet to be done for them. I feel in the Gurudwaras wherever they are social welfare activities and programmes are to be started. The Prime Minister announced yesterday to have an All India Gurudwara Act after consulting the Shiromani Akali Dal and other concerned. Within the ambit of the agreement that can be worked out. So also, people from the Scheduled Caste communities and other backward communities in Punjab can be urged to do something so that some social welfare programmes can be started in consultation with the concerned people in the Gurudwaras.

It will further create harmony and good relations between Hindus and Sikhs in Punjab. Though they do and I know it, unfortunately, for the last few years the picture of Gurudwaras has been painted in a different manner. I know in Calcutta Gurudwaras the kind of social work they do during floods and drought is unimaginable. They go to Muslim areas, Harijan areas and every other areas. There I feel that Guru Nanak is alive. Therefore, I feel that when the new Gurudwara Act is to come, it should include some of the social programmes that involve not only the Sikhs but also the non-Sikhs, which will create harmony not only in Punjab but in other parts of the country also.

In conclusion, once again, I request the Hon. Minister to inspire the Punjab youth. They may be having agricultural land. But

sports is one item in Punjab which is not being encouraged by the Government of India or the Government of Punjab to that extent which it should have been. I have compared the figures. Still now there is no stadium in Punjab though the best hockey players do come from there. There is no major track and field in Punjab excepting NIS Patiala. But the Punjab Government promised many a time to spend for that. Sports schools and sports nurseries under the initiative of Punjab Government should be there to groom the teenagers and school going boys at the national level by collecting boys from various parts of the country. Why I say this is that FIFA, the international body of football, has recommended visiting India. And only at three places in India the climate is suitable to play football for training purposes. One is Punjab, second is Kerala and third is Bengal. Punjab has the advantage of sports equipment. Therefore, I request once again to spend more for sports in Punjab to build up the infrastructure specially for the sports goods.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Punjab Budget which is before us. So far as Punjab is concerned, it is the best State in the country and it supplies food-grains to the whole country. As far as Punjab problem was concerned that has been solved now. By signing an accord with the Akalis, our Hon Prime Minister has created an atmosphere of peace and amity not only in that State but also in the rest of the country.

But today, floods caused by heavy rains have damaged the crops in Punjab. There is soil-erosion in Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar districts. The major factor causing floods and soil-erosion in the plains, are the hilly rivers. They cause the maximum soil-erosion in Punjab. I have been always emphasising in the House that the main reason for this is lack of tree plantation in hilly areas. This is a national task and should be taken up on national scale. It should not happen that for want of afforestation the floods go on occurring every year and the soil-erosion goes on unabated. There is need for more plantation in the Kandhi area of Hoshiarpur

district in Punjab where small farmers own small holdings.

So far as terrorism is concerned I cannot say for sure about other places but now the people visit Gurudwaras in a relaxed way. Earlier when they used to visit Gurudwaras, there was always fear of being murdered. The Punjab police will have to pay attention to this. Besides, those who are running the Punjab administration should enquire into these incidents of violence in which innocent people continued to be brutally murdered and the administration was a silent spectator.

Our Hon. Prime Minister has tried to solve this issue with liberal approach but in a firm way which is a welcome step. Whether it is with regards to Railway Coach factory or setting up of any factory our Hon. Prime Minister pays special attention to Punjab. He has announced a time-bound programme for all the jobs to be executed. I feel that it is not only the good luck of the people of Punjab but all the countrymen that an accord like this has been reached. Funds from the national exchequer have been invested in Punjab. Himachal Pradesh co-operated a lot in the construction of Bhakra Dam. The people of Himachal parted with their lands for the country's prosperity but the extremists breached the canal near Ropar ruining the crops.

I would appeal to the Akalis and the opposition parties that though an accord has been signed yet I am afraid that terrorism may take root and, therefore, all of us will have to co-operate to crush it. The border of Himachal Pradesh is all along Punjab and industrial development is going on there. But at times, such people of Punjab, who are enemies of the society violate the law. Of course, the law-abiding people cooperate with us. The Akali Dal has been a nationalist party ever since the time of Master Tara Singh but I fail to understand what had gone wrong with them. All the same, it is never too late. So far as the students are concerned, as my friend also pointed out, they were incited and that is why every thing went wrong. Our Government wish to ensure peace in the State and maintain law and order. I would like to point out to the administration of Punjab that the Railway had made a provision in

the Budget for a train for the children of Abohar - our Hon. Speaker belongs to Abohar - and rupees three lakhs were sent on laying the track also. That train had to be launched but the Administration of Punjab did not spend that much amount even. I would, therefore, request the Punjab Administration and the Governor to get this task accomplished so that the children could benefit therefrom.

Besides, I would like to point out that there is Hindu-Sikh amity in Himachal Pradesh. The daily worship in temples and Gurudwaras has started since yesterday. Prayers for peace were offered throughout the country with this hope that we shall live together as brothers. I hope that we shall live in peace and make progress. The agricultural Production in Punjab would increase manifold. The industrialist had totally failed as no one in the country was ready to supply them goods on credit. The traders of Punjab were not able to get on credit even goods worth two rupees in Calcutta. But now we hope and wish that atmosphere will improve and Punjab would make fast progress.

I would like to point out one more thing. My constituency is adjacent to Anandpur Sahib. There is a long-standing demand for a bridge in 'Dabota' village which falls in Ropar district. There is a deep gorge there. I hope the district authorities and administration will pay attention to this demand.

I conclude and support this Budget.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : I am sorry that I happened to be absent from the House yesterday at the time when the very important and indeed historic announcement was made by the Prime Minister here. On behalf of my party I wish to express our deep sense of relief. We welcome very much this agreement which came as a very happy surprise. It was a happy surprise more so because the actual terms on which we find the Agreement has been reached are not very new. These were the things which were being suggested even one year ago, but sometime or other either the Government was not willing to consider

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

those suggestions or at other times the Akali leadership was not going to consider those suggestions. But ultimately it is a very good sign that an agreement has been reached.

Of course, the Prime Minister has played a very statesmanlike part in this whole affair but we should also not forget the role which must have been played, though quietly and behind the scene, by the Governor, Shri Arjun Singh, who obviously has been doing a lot of spade work. Otherwise such an agreement would not have come about within 24 hours. I must also say that Sant Longowal has taken courage in both hands. It is a sign perhaps that the balance of force inside the Akali camp has shifted decisively in favour of that section of opinion, which is led by Sant Longowal. That is a very important thing for the future, because what we feel is that this agreement should receive general acceptance by all sections in the Punjab.

But, Sir, it is too early just now to say any thing on it, because by this evening or tomorrow morning I hope. We will not be reading some discordant voices against it. There are extremists on both sides and I cannot bring myself to believe that all those extremist sections will so easily reconcile themselves to this Agreement. Such elements are not only here in India, but apparently they are abroad also. Are we to believe that those who have been so active for the last three or four years, spending so much money from abroad and using foreign resources and other resources in order to instigate terrorism and disaffection among our Sikh brothers, will just sit down quietly and accept everything? It would be very naive on our part not to be vigilant and not to be prepared with all the measures that are at our disposal to counter any efforts which may still be made either by those who were supporting the terrorists or by the people like the Hindu Suraksha Samiti and also such type of people who have been from the other side trying to keep up tension and to spread some kind of communal feelings.

I was very much gratified to find that Shri Bhajan Lal also has apparently agreed to these terms quite easily even to the extent

of sharing the Resogullas which were consumed yesterday. Therefore, I am sure Shri Bhajan Lal will exert himself to see that the public opinion in Haryana this reconciled properly to the acceptance of this Agreement.

Of course, there are some loose ends that have been left. I am sure that will be taken up by the parties concerned and they will see that those are not left hanging in the air. For example, there is no mention here at all of Fazilka and Abohar. That was rather a thorny question in the past as far as the Haryana people were concerned and they had always been saying that any political award of Chadigarh to Punjab must be accompanied by simultaneous cession of Fazilka and Abohar to Haryana. Apparently, for the time being, they have compromised on that issue. I hope it does not become now a matter for agitation by some sections of people in Haryana but some solution has to be found as quickly as possible to these other areas which were under dispute. It is after all a package deal. This is a point of view - certainly my party and some others on this side have always been pressing for more than a year now—That concessions however welcome should not be given out in doses and dribblets. The whole attempt was that the solution should be made on the basis of an overall package deal without which it is not possible to get this situation normalised.

I am very glad now that a package deal has come about; and the components of that package deal are to be found only - you will excuse my saying so - in the proposals which most of the opposition parties made last year to the Government. Perhaps Government will say now that the other side was not willing to accept. But, at that time, I remember, the Government itself was not prepared to accept those proposals; but all those proposals are here in the package deal. And the broadcast which was made by the last Prime Minister by and large did concede all these points. But of course it was too late at that time to avoid the military action which was already decided on.

So, I think, we should allow things to settle down a bit; the situation should be allowed to get stabilised. After this, many

other things are required to be done. It is not necessary for me now to elaborate on them but many things will have to be done. Because, what has taken place during the last 3 years or 4 years, I am sure, has left very, very deep scars and wounds on the communities in the Punjab. It will take time to heal those things. It cannot be healed so easily. And for that everybody concerned - particularly everybody who is here in this House - will have to exert all their efforts together and cooperate in seeing that those scars and wounds are healed as soon as possible.

Especially I agree with Mr. Das Munsi that a special effort must be made to see that the younger section and younger generation is brought back to the correct path and that their sentiments which had been hurt very much or which had been aroused on the religious issues, are assuaged. Those feelings must be assuaged as soon as possible. It will require a lot of hard work, a lot of patience, a lot of persuasion and a lot of tact in the handling by the Government mainly and by all other parties concerned who also work in the Punjab.

The biggest achievement has been that this agreement has come in time to prevent any further deterioration of the situation which was leading ultimately towards what we were most afraid of, and that was, a communal clash between the Sikhs and the Hindus. If that had taken place, that would have been the end of the Punjab for a long time to come. Some people were very actively trying to bring about such communal riot and clash between Sikhs and Hindus in the Punjab. That was avoided, thanks to the good commonsense and the common Punjabi brotherhood feelings among Sikhs and Hindus, which has got a long tradition, a long history, and has got deep social roots. And all efforts failed; all their efforts failed to bring about any clash between these communities in the Punjab. And now that this agreement has come, I am sure that it will further help to consolidate the position.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, do you want now to ring the bell? I am ready to sit down.

13 00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please finish it because four minutes are allotted to you, but I have given 10 minutes. Therefore, with whatever you want to say you try to conclude.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Broadly speaking, I think the terms of this Agreement are very just in so far as they go. What is being decided ultimately about the Anandpur Sahib Resolution is also very gratifying. If this position had been accepted much earlier, which we had also been suggesting that that part of the Resolution which refers to Centre-State relations should be referred to the Sarkaria Commission—now, at least, you see, the position has been made clear by the Akali Party leadership that this Resolution does not, in any sense, countenance any kind of idea of secession or separatism or separate State or anything and that within the four corners of the Indian Constitution this Resolution should be implemented, because even a week or 10 days ago there was an unfortunate press statement whether it is correct or not I do not know—by Mr. Thora in which he said that no solution can be found within the Constitution. It will have to be outside the Constitution. I do not know what he meant, but any way the leadership which has negotiated and signed this agreement has taken this forth-right step that it has nothing to do with secessionism or a separate State or anything of that kind and that they are all pledged to stand by the Constitution. Then, of course, this question of Centre-State relations which is implicit in the Anandpur Sahib Resolution is not something which we need to be afraid of, is not something which concerns Punjab alone. The question of inter-State relations is something which is being agitated by many State Governments and many State forces in the country including the States which are ruled by the Congress (I) Party. That is a different question that the Sarkaria Commission is already appointed to go into it. Any way, let the position stabilise, we are very glad that some relief has come and we should be vigilant to see that nobody tries to throw a spanner in the wheel.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

One final thing is, I must strike a little bit of a discordant note because something is happening at this moment in Punjab which we are losing sight of because our press also, I am afraid, has blacked it out completely, whether on some orders or not I do not know. Just at this moment when we have decided in the agreement that Army deserters, for example, should be given all possible help to be rehabilitated, those who are not convicted should be rehabilitated—I fully agree with that, but workers in the Punjab who are building the construction projects in the Punjab instead of being rehabilitated are being retrenched. 6000 workers have been retrenched in the last one month after completing the work on the Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project at Nangal, one of the biggest hydel projects in Punjab, and this was happening for some time. We referred to it, we represented, I personally went to the Prime Minister just after he had announced at Hussainiwala that the work on the Thien Dam would be speeded up, I had personally represented to him that in the present situation in the Punjab, these thousands of workmen, who are skilled workmen, semi-skilled workmen, mechanics, artisans, crane drivers, all sorts of pump drivers and people like that should not be retrenched and rendered unemployed, they can be re-employed, absorbed in so many other projects which are there in the Punjab. The Thien Dam is there, the Sutlej-Jamuna link canal work is there, the Rupar thermal power project is there and the Mukerian Hydel Project is there — all these are under construction and these workers who are experienced people, who have worked for so long on the Nangal project—now 6000 of them -- are being retrenched. They have been retrenched, they have been given retrenchment orders, because they took out a silent procession on the 3rd of this month at Nangal and again they held a meeting at Ganguwal asking only for absorption in other projects, they have been lathi charged by the police and many of their people have been arrested. I just got this letter from Patiala Central Jail yesterday from one of the leaders of these workmen's unions who was sitting in Patiala Central Jail describing how they have been lathi charged and here unfortunately I have got with me copies of letters given by the Punjab Government, Mr.

Tajendra Khanna, Secretary to the Government of the Punjab writing a letter in which he says...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can refer it to the Minister. You can send a copy to the Minister.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Is anything going to happen? You cannot go on rehabilitating people who have deserted from the Army while you retrench people who have been building projects in the Punjab. What kind of double standards are these? These people should also be rehabilitated. They are not people who are just idle people. They are people who have worked with their skill and hands. The Prime Minister assured me that this matter would be given consideration and there are many projects in the Punjab where they could be absorbed. But suddenly, at one go, 6,000 people have been chucked out their families are going to starve. What kind of atmosphere will it create? Is it helpful to create a new atmosphere that would follow after the agreement. It will create a discordant note that so many people have been chucked out from their jobs and things like that.

So, I am appealing that in this hour when the whole country is expressing its happiness and relief at this agreement, they should see to it that workmen who have been working on these projects and have completed such projects are not chucked out in the summary fashion but absorbed in the other pending projects like Thein Dam, Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal and projects like that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please wind up.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Please consider this matter and don't leave it hanging in the air. The news is blacked out completely from the media also. I do not know why. People are being lathi charged, jailed and all these things. Even the Correspondent of the TRIBUNE on that day was lathi charged and beaten by the police when he was covering the silent march at Nangal. These matters are not made known to the country at all. I have to speak on these matters here.

I have to request the Government through the Minister to see that some early steps are taken for the rehabilitation of these workers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we adjourn for Lunch and re-assemble at 2.00 p. m.

13.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock

[English]

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PUNJAB),
1985-86—contd.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH (Sarguja) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I Support the Punjab Budget Presented here though this Budget is a State Assembly subject, it has been presented here under special circumstances arising due to President's Rule in the State. It is a good thing that every aspect of this Budget has been discussed in detail and it has been prepared with practical approach. So far as this Budget is concerned, as it has been presented in the premier institution of the country, it should be carefully gone through to see whether sufficient provision has been made and there are no shortcomings. The way the formalities were completed was highly satisfactory and so far as the people of Punjab are concerned you know they are hardworking and enterprising. Government always had special interest in the future of Punjab. The State has always been far ahead of other States in matters of irrigation, agriculture, construction of dams, small scale industries and recruitment in army etc. There are many things which are available in abundance in

Punjab while in other States they are not available, when Punjab was at the pinnacle of progress and development, a handful of vested interests, which are today called extremists, vitiated the atmosphere. You must have observed that they tried to disintegrate the country for their selfish ends.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government have taken many effective steps to solve this problem. The President's Rule was imposed and even our popular leader Shri-mati Indira Gandhi had to sacrifice her life Shri Rajiv Gandhi took over the reins after her martyrdom and tried to bring about a solution with team work. As you are aware an able and dynamic leader like Shri Arjun Singh was appointed as Governor and he tried with all his might to bring the situation under control. It was the result of his efforts that an agreement was signed yesterday and the whole of country is Overwhelmed with joy. The unique agreement between Sant Longowal and Shri Rajiv Gandhi will bring peace and tranquility in the country and Punjab would make progress as before.

As is known to all Punjab is in the grip of floods at present as a result of which about 3 lakh hectares of land have been inundated and 10 lakh persons have been affected in one way or the other.

It is a matter of concern for all of us. I want to bring to your notice that there is need to put in more serious efforts to tackle this situation and it would be proper to make necessary provision in the Budget. You are also well aware that during the last couple of years the climate of terrorism has gripped the whole country in general and Punjab in particular and many innocent people have been killed and their property looted. This House expects from Government to give adequate compensation to all those who are affected and dislocated and give them an opportunity to be rehabilitated. It is, therefore, necessary to make adequate provision in Punjab Budget for these things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we look at the glorious part of Punjab we know it has been a progressive State all along.

[Shri Lal Vijay Pratap Singh]

Now Chandigarh would be its Capital. Keeping this in view there is need to make provision for more funds, so that the new system may function effectively. It is my firm belief that if normalcy returns to Punjab and law and order situation improves and if the people work with as much of dedication and sincerity as here to before undoubtedly Punjab would recover faster and once again regain its glory.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words I thank you and hope that Government with all its might will see to it that the new system works effectively.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when God was about to create this world, He expressed his wish to create human being and told the angels that He was going to create His representative in the world. The angels replied that they were sufficient in number to sing praises of His Holiness and of his benevolence. They cautioned Him saying that He was going to create such a being who would spread violence, hatred and bloodshed in the world. The God said, "I know better than you." Therefore, the first human being came into existence who was named Adam. He is called by different names in every religion. Two of his sons were Kabeel and Habeel. Kabeel murdered Habeel. That wanton murder is still writ large on the face of the world even today and the people from one part of this earth planet have launched invasions on the other parts and have indulged in bloodshed without any rhyme or reason. Kaiser indulged in bloodshed, Ghengis Khan indulged too and Halaku massacred many people. But what did they achieve ? In the name of religion hair-raising cruelties have been perpetrated. It was expected of a religion to teach humanism to the human beings but alas religion itself was soaked in blood ! The believers fight in the name of religion. They do not understand religion in its real sense. Religion does not teach us that cruelties should be perpetrated against mankind which is the creation of revered God.

A person can be won over bodily by the strength of a sword but his heart cannot be won over by it. It is love which can win over this heart of a person. It is the only thing which establishes nexus between man and God and remove the difference of high and low among the human beings. When this bond of love was established between our Prime Minister and the leaders of the Punjab, a historic accord came into being which will become an example for the posterity. The future generations will always remember it. For this our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi deserves the best of praise and congratulations.

Punjab symbolises the heart of our country. It is the responsibility of everyone of our motherland to take care of this heart. I had been to Punjab during the course of man contact. We used to hold as many as ten meetings in a day attended by 300 to 10,000 people. This showed that the people wanted the solution of the problem soon. There the people were ignorant about the Anandpur Sahib Resolution as well as the Akali demands. But some mischievous elements for this Sake of their interest raised a bogey and we had to suffer bloodshed on such a large scale and had to suffer such a loss whose example is nowhere to be found in the world. Our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi served the motherland with her last drop of blood. But no sacrifice goes waste. That sacrifice has given us a promising and able Prime Minister and leader to our country. It is due to this that we have been able to reach this accord. We have to remember that we have to establish cordial relations with Punjab which it needs badly. There is acute problem of unemployment in Punjab. We have to look into it. Punjab is part and parcel of our country. The people are full of patriotism and love for their country. The loyalty is in the blood of every Punjabi to whichever Community he may belong. We have seen that in time of wars the people of Punjab put their shoulder to the wheel and encouraged our army in the battle field. This is not the only example. If you go to Punjab and see Hussaniwala, you will find that the memorials of those, who got their motherland freed, are installed on the bridge of Hussaniwala. The memorials of persons like Sardar Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Arjun Singh are installed there.

I will recommend that those sacred memorials should be installed in front of Parliament of our country so that the coming generations may draw inspiration from them

There are many problem before Punjab. The problem of unemployment is there. At present the flood water has assumed alarming proportion as if it were a huge sea. We should give as much love and assistance to the people of Punjab as possible.

I would like to draw the attention of Government to the welfare of the unemployed people particularly the ex-servicemen. The member of persons in the Army is maximum from Punjab. The Ex-servicemen should get suitable service and be looked after well.

With these words I support the Punjab Budget whole heartedly and recommend that full provision should be made in the Budget for Punjab.

[English]

SHRI H.M. PATEL (Sabarkantha): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday the Prime Minister announced the accord that had been reached in regard to the Punjab. Common sense had at last prevailed. Various items in the Memorandum which was read out by the Prime Minister showed very clearly that on understanding each of these items could have been quite easily reached long ago. But there were various reasons, something or other intervened and agreement could not be reached. However, what we have to see is to the future. It is to be hoped that the accord will now be received and welcomed by all sections of the people in the Punjab. Otherwise the agony can easily be prolonged.

We have several States today in our country in which not unsimilar unfortunate situation exists. In Assam, we have relatively a simple problem. It has gone drifting unsolved on for several years. It appears also to be now near some agreement and I hope that the Prime Minister will with the determination with which he approached the Punjab problem, approach that problem also

and arrive at some kind of an agreement so that the agony of the people of Assam can also be terminated. We have also some other States including my own State, Gujarat, which continue to have difficulties. I do not know what precisely should be done. I do know in a broad way what probably ought to be done. But, I trust, the Prime Minister will now have some time to direct his attention towards the problems and the difficulties of Gujarat. Solutions cannot be achieved really from a distance. A great deal of close attention has to be devoted. I think the solution in the case of the Punjab was achieved because of a great many people interested themselves in solving the Punjab problems. Mr Indrajit Gupta referred in Particular to efforts that must have been made presumably by the Governor of Punjab.

He also referred to the efforts made by various people in the opposition parties towards the achievement of that agreement. In such matters there has to be a cooperative effort so that the problems are solved. These problems are simple and the difficulties are not very complex. We make them complex by not taking a reasonable decision in time. It is not necessary to go deeper into the question why the Punjab solution took so much time, and why the agreement was not achieved earlier. What we should rejoice now is that an agreement had been arrived. I personally think that while efforts of so many contributed towards this agreement, the Prime Minister's determination undoubtedly helped and I would now like that he does turn his attention to the States of Assam and Gujarat, more to Assam than Gujarat, because the Assam problem has dragged on for so many years and the people of Assam have really suffered quite considerably.

So far as the Punjab is concerned, while hoping that everyone will accept this agreement as warmly as everyone in this House has welcomed it, what remains to be done is that all of us should proceed to bring about once again the harmony and friendly situation that once existed in Punjab. It was the most prosperous State in this country so also Gujarat was a prosperous State. I say 'was prosperous' because the last few months

[Shri H. M. Patel]

disturbances have certainly been a major setback to those States. The sufferings of the large number of people increased because they were thrown out of employment, the daily wage earners in particular saw their livelihood vanishing with the vanishing of their employment. They must have had the greatest difficulty in solving their daily food problem. These are the kind of difficulties and problems which we seem rarely to Visualise or think about. Who suffers very much as a result of these difficulties? It is the large number of such poor people who suffer very greatly, while we concentrate our attention on all kinds of other things, but not to the sufferings of the ordinary man, the smaller man. And that is one reason why, while feeling happy about the Punjab, I am unhappy because the situation in so many other States continues to be unsatisfactory.

Whenever these questions are raised, we say it is a State matter. Ours is a peculiar arrangement. Ours is a federal State, but it is a unitary State also and the kind of arrangement that we have arrived at strengthens our country as a whole. But if the conditions of the people at large, conditions of the poor people in every State have to improve, then the Centre has to continue to devote a great deal of attention to the sufferings of these ordinary people.

The Centre-State relations was one of the major problems and difficulty that faced us in the case of the Punjab. It is very satisfactory that the obvious thing has been done and the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, so far as it relates to the Centre-State problem has been referred to the Sarkaria Commission. The problem that must now have the highest priority in the Punjab in Punjab is to see that an early election is held and the President's rule comes to an end. The President's rule is desirable in certain circumstances. But we have not always observed healthy conventions in regard to it. When law and order ceases to exist, then the President's rule becomes inevitable and ought to be so regarded. But we do not always follow that convention. We think in terms of political advantages. In Gujarat, for instance, undoubtedly the sufferings of

the people would have been greatly shortened if President's rule had been brought in at an early stage, for law and order had completely broke at a very early stage down. Then was the time to consider this seriously. The fact that the Government of the day enjoyed a very big majority was not relevant. But it was not merely a question of whether the Government has an enormous majority or not, but it was a question of whether the Government was capable of maintaining law and order in the State. If law and order collapses, in spite of the fact that the Government of the day/has a majority support, the Centre must seriously consider the question of bringing in the President's rule. It is not a question of majority rule or majority support being enjoyed by the Government. The tragedy is that the Government enjoying such an enormous majority support, was unable to maintain law and order. I think in such matters, the consideration that must always weigh very greatly with those in authority is the sufferings of the poor.

I am very happy at least that so far as the Punjab is concerned, we may now genuinely hope that the sufferings of the people will come to an end. There is a slight uncertainty that still remains. But that uncertainty, no doubt, will disappear when the people generally see how much everybody desires that these uncertain and troubled days come to an end. I hope the Government will see to it that the promises that have been made and whatever it has undertaken to do, is done literally and in spirit.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have taken much time. Shri A.K. Patel wants to speak.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : I will certainly stop if that is the reason. I want to generate no feelings of bitterness of any kind. I will certainly stop. I have nothing much to say except that I welcome this accord and I am very happy that this accord is reached. I would like to offer my congratulations to all those whose efforts led to this accord is reached.

DR. A.K. PATEL (Mohsana) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday, unfortunately

I was not present in the House when the historical announcement of the Memorandum of Understanding was made. I personally and on behalf of my party B J P, welcome it and it is a great credit for the nation. It was a great bit of problem which the nation was facing for the last so many years. This should have been done years back. In that case, so many costly lives could have been saved. I know the opposition parties were blamed for favouring the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. Now from the talks it is seen this is what has been done; if not totally, at least partially it is accepted.

I request the Central Government to make all efforts to solve the problems of Punjab. As you know, Punjab was one of the foremost States like Gujarat, but for the last so many years all industries are at a standstill, farming is also not well-developed, so many people are jobless. So many costly lives were lost during the last four years. To bring about normalcy, to re-establish the normal position and to bring peace in the country, the State Government should be helped in all possible ways. As you know, the Central Government was taking more interest in the people of Punjab those days because the election was coming. Now the election is over and acceptance of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution was at the back of the mind of the people.

I will not say much about the Budget because actually it was the right of the people of Punjab to pass the Budget. But as the position was not normal for years and it was not solved, we have to do it. The terrorism which took place in Punjab for the last so many years has affected the nation also. As my predecessor said, Gujarat was the most peaceful State of the nation. Because of what has happened there during the last so many months, it has lost that reputation and so much of personal property is being lost everyday. I would request the Prime Minister through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to intervene in Gujarat so that peace can be established in that State.

(Translation)

SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA
(Hoshangabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,
I rise to support the Punjab Budget

which has been presented in this supreme institution of our democracy. My predecessors have stated that the authority for passing Punjab Budget vested with the Punjab Legislative Assembly but due to some unfortunate circumstances the President's rule is imposed there and unwillingly we have to pass this budget. Agreeing with the views of my previous Speakers I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for solving such a complicated problem in such adverse circumstances. This problem did not pertain to Punjab only but the country as a whole was affected by it and it was becoming an international problem. Other countries were also taking interest in the problem. This was witnessed some days ago. The people of the country have also seen how the enemies of India were playing their nefarious game under the cover of this problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of India accepted the leadership of Rajivji Gandhi on the same day when he became the Prime Minister for the first time. There is no example in the history of the world where we find that a person whose mother had been killed with bullets and who had seen the blood of his mother gushing out, who had been seen the bullet riddled body of his mother with his own eyes and in spite of this who without losing nerve and after taking oath of the office of the Prime Minister left the mortal remains of his mother at home and went to mollify the agitated people. On that very day, the people of the country had accepted the leadership of Rajivji. Now, no doubt whatsoever has been left after the historic accord concluded yesterday. I will convey my thanks to all the leaders of the opposition Parties who welcomed the accord boldly.

Some days ago I got an opportunity to visit Punjab and I met many people there. The Punjab prosperous which was the glory of this country fell on the evil days. The people of that State narrated their sad plight that earlier they were leading a happy life, every village was having electricity and water and was linked with roads. There were good crops in every village and the milk was in abundance. But the same Punjab was affected by an evil eye, as a

[Shri Rameshwar Neekhra]

result of which the terrorist indulged in bloodshed. There I had an opportunity to meet a mother. She told me that when she was admitted in the hospital and her son was bringing medicine for her, some terrorists fired at him and killed him. There are such families there who were waiting for their husbands, sons but Their husbands and sons never returned home because they were killed by the terrorists. This course of events in Punjab claimed many lives.

Batala village of Punjab, which used to supply machines to the whole country and where different kinds of machines used to be manufactured, was under curfew at that time. All the factories in Batala were lying closed. The businessmen of Batala were saying that no one visited their and no one believed them. In this way Punjab looked shocked. But after the accord was concluded, it brought hope to the country that Punjab will return to the days of its prosperity and happiness. Batala will resume supply of machines to the whole country. Same will be the case with the wheat produced in Punjab. Again the milk will be supplied in abundance and once again Punjab will witness prosperity. For this our Hon. Prime Minister deserves congratulations.

On this occasion I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of State for Finance to a few points. Keeping in mind the accord concluded yesterday will the hon. Minister bring about changes in the Budget because it is said in the accord that compensation will be paid to those persons who have suffered loss of life and property in these incidents? Will any provision be made in the Budget so that the accord concluded yesterday by the Prime Minister is implemented properly?

Similarly the Hon. Prime Minister had announced yesterday that those army men who under the stress of emotions had committed acts of indiscipline will be provided with better employment after their dismissal. May I know whether in pursuance of the announcement, the hon. Minister has made any provision in his Budget so that fund is made available to provide them with

better employment? In the recent past the industry in Punjab became sick and it was sabotaged on a large scale. Will the hon. Minister make provision in his budget so that fund is made available separately to run the sick industry? Also a number of schools and hospitals were burnt down, incidents of sabotaged took place at many places, transport system was disturbed and bridges and canals were damaged. So taking all these things into consideration will the hon. Minister make special provision in the Budget so as to rectify all these things?

With these words I support the Punjab Budget and make submission to the hon. Minister that keeping in view the announcement made yesterday and the damages having been caused earlier, provision may be made in this Budget for the special fund so that the accord is implemented properly.

SHRIMATI PREMABAI CHARAN (Karad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I consider myself to be fortunate for having got an opportunity to speak on the Punjab Budget. The accord on Punjab which was concluded yesterday will be written in golden letters in the history of the country. Our country was passing through great turmoil since 1980 and it was facing this boldly. The example of the sacrifice made by our great leader late Shrimati Indira Gandhi in facing these problems will not be found in the history of the last five thousand years and there is also no possibility of such thing to take place in future. Even today the situation is being faced boldly. Our young leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi has repeated that history. The phrase in English—History repeats itself is proving to be true. Ever since Rajiv Gandhi took charge of the office, he is facing challenges of all types. The world is astonished at this. The situation in the country had deteriorated so much that one failed to understand what to do. Fears of many type haunted us. What would happen to the country? Have the Indian culture, Indian greatness and the good deeds of the Indian people become meaningless? Shri Rajiv Gandhi is one of the great, brave and illustrious men the country has produced and this has amply been proved in case of Punjab.

He used to say in his speeches that a solution would be found of this problem and that solution would be found keeping in view the interest of all parties. He has done what he had been saying. Such examples are rare.

[English]

Great persons are born, not made.

[Translation]

By concluding this agreement he has proved the aforesaid saying. Now, Punjab will prove to be a proud State of India, Punjab is a very prosperous and brave State of our country. I desire that elections may be held there very soon and the State may be solved from evil forces. I request the hon. Prime Minister that special facilities may be provided to them in order to meet the loss suffered by them.

The Governor of Punjab, Shri Arjun Singh has also played a vital role in this regard. Punjab has gained a lot on account of his fraternal attitude and he has proved to be a successful Governor. I, therefore, congratulate him also alongwith Shri Rajiv Womanfolk of the country are very happy on this agreement. Whenever we went to Punjab and met the womanfolk there, they used to say that their one son is Sikh while the other is Hindu. Both the sons are dear to the mother. They used to pray to God that differences developed between brothers may end. The Punjab has now been saved from the danger. The main reason for losses, and halting of progress in Punjab was that the youth there had gone astray. But the State will again march ahead rapidly make progress. It produces the largest quantity of food grains in the country. People there are very hard working. I hope that this state will again march towards progress. I extend all my good wishes for this State Besides, I also express my good wishes for Rajivji so that he shoulders the country's responsibility bravely. May he live long.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the outset,

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Punjab budget. I thought there would be another occasion for us to discuss the whole question of Punjab. But since everybody is speaking on it, I thought I must also take part in it.

Sir, at the very outset I wholeheartedly and with open arms welcome the accord that was reached yesterday evening. This was the day we have been devoutly looking for, for a long time. On this happy occasion it will not be relevant for us to dig into the past. But I do not know whether we can completely forget the past because if we forget the past and ignore it, we are likely to repeat the mistakes we made in the past.

One is surprised — and pleasantly — at the ease with which the accord could be reached. This only raises a fundamental question as to whether this kind of agreement was possible earlier, prior to the Blue Star operation. My own view is that this agreement was possible without the Blue Star operation and before the Blue Star operation. We must, therefore, examine as to why it was not made possible before that period.

If we look at the agreement that was reached yesterday, you will find that it is an eleven-point memorandum, out of which the first six points barring point No. 5 relate to issues and incidents that took place after the Blue Star operation. In other words, out of the eleven points only six points relate to the real issues over which the entire crisis brewed.

I would like now to say as to why this agreement could not be reached before the Blue Star operation. If I am to say in one sentence it may be shocking. It will certainly jar on the ears of the Minister of State for Finance. I do not know whether he would be competent to answer. It was not possible because at that time the Congress (I) had the Eighth Lok Sabha poll still to wage and win.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHIR (Ghazipur) : You ask them why it was not possible.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It was made impossible because at that time the Government of India used to say that Haryana and

Rajasthan had many objections to raise. I do not know what really happened to Bhajan Lal yesterday. I want the ruling party to realise the colossal cost this country had to bear for the victory they had won at the last Lok Sabha polls on this Punjab issue. I know that this issue in the current phase, had in fact commenced way back in 1982.

In the first place the Akali Dal began with a charter of 45 demands. Later on they were short-listed to ten demands. Out of these ten demands four were religious and six were about Punjab, May I point out that all the four religious issues were conceded unilaterally by the Government of India but in the wrong manner and at the wrong place? The late Prime Minister announced these concessions at Delhi which only worsened the situation. In regard to the remaining six Punjab demands a consensus was worked out.

In fact, there were at least three occasions when the agreement was reached and when drafts were also prepared. On November 17, 1983, in fact, an aircraft was kept ready to take the VIPs to Amritsar. I want to know as to who went back on that. What were the reasons which compelled the then Government to go back on that.

Here, let me say something about the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. Our Prime Minister made much of it not only at the Lok Sabha polls but also at the Assembly polls. When the leaders of Janata Party including the President of the Party, Mr Chandra Shekhar, said that everything was not wrong with the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, this ruling party had the moral temerity and audacity to paint the veteran opposition leader in antinational colours.

I hope, this accord will pave the way for lasting harmony between Sikhs and Hindus in Punjab. I am sure, this accord would go a long way in strengthening the foundations of India's unity and integrity.

I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister to express regrets to the nation in good grace for the ungraceful and unpatriotic attacks he mounted on the bonafides of the opposition leaders. I want the Prime Minister to be graceful; I want the ruling

party to be graceful because they know who paid the price, who benefited out of this colossal turmoil that this country had to pass through. This country paid the price in terms of blood, money and relations between two major communities. Therefore, it is very necessary for us to remember what has really been gone through.

Though the accord has been reached and though our own reports are that the accord has been widely welcomed in Punjab in almost all the sober responsible quarters, we must not forget that there will be a fringe to keep causing trouble. There is, therefore, need for the Government to be on the alert. This is not the time to relax. This is, in fact, the time for us to be on guard.

I congratulate Sant Longowalji on the tremendous moral courage he displayed in reaching this settlement. I must really compliment on the great patriotic fervour that he showed in reaching this agreement. At no point of time did leaders like Sant Longowalji. Prakash Singh Badal, S.S. Barnala lose their cool. At no point of time were they, consciously or at least privy to anything that would undermine the integrity, of this country. I am of the view, while appreciating the Government and the opposition parties for playing their correct part in evolving a solution to the problem, the whole House should congratulate Sant Longowalji on the constructive role he played in this crisis.

We will have to learn one thing from this crisis. There are issues which confront this nation as a whole. On such critical issues, we must evolve conventions traditions and processes by which a multi-partisan consensus can be developed. It is unfortunate that the ruling party in this country tends to develop a partisan approach to every national issue.

15.00 hrs.

It tends to give partisan dimension to every national problem. I hope that the ruling party, which got a massive mandate, will no longer indulge in such silly politicking. If this lesson alone is learnt by the ruling party, I will not really feel sorry for the massive victory they had at our cost, at the cost of the country, on the question of Punjab.

15.01 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE:NATURAL CALAMITIES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we shall take up item No. 8 - discussion under Rule 193. I request Prof K.V. Thomas to initiate the discussion.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam) : Sir, first of all, I thank the Hon. Deputy Speaker for allowing me to have a discussion on the recent natural calamities. Our nation has not seen such unprecedented floods, landslides and sea erosion in the last ten or fifteen years as we have seen during the last two months. No state or region was spared from the assault of the South-West monsoon. Starting from Assam, Punjab and coming to Kerala, all the States have suffered a lot. In Punjab alone, the death toll has risen to 55. In Jalandhar city alone, 2000 families were marooned and 100 houses collapsed. In Bihar, Kosi river, which known as the sorrow of Bihar, is flowing 100 to 130 cms. above the danger level. In Uttar Pradesh, major rivers are rising up, and similar is the situation in West Bengal.

15.03 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN
in the Chair]

Coming to State, Kerala. It is for the first time during the last sixty years that our State is facing such unprecedented floods, landslides and sea erosion. Last year, Kerala had faced a very serious drought which was the first a period of hundred years, and now this year we are facing the unprecedented floods. Geographically, on the western side of Kerala we have the Arabian Sea and on the eastern side, we have the Western Ghats. Usually, Arabian Sea is calm but this year when the monsoon started, say by the middle of May, everything was smooth and moderate, but at the end of June, monsoon turned violent and the Arabian Sea took a monstrous shape and huge waves to the height of a two-storeyed

building were flashing on the sea shore eating away the land, washing away the houses and uprooting thousands and thousands of coconut trees. The damage is irreparable.

On the other side on the Eastern sector, the hills were coming down and rocks were rolling down, causing heavy damage to plantations, agriculture, causing breaches to the roads and killing people. And on the mainland, the entire place was flooded. In Alleppey, which is the constituency of the Chairman and which is called the granary of Kerala, the full region was submerged and instead of green paddy fields only an ocean could be seen.

I am not going into the details of the losses caused, but I am trying to bring out only some important points. The total number of deaths till today is 102 the total number of injured is 7,400; total population affected is 146 lakhs, which is about 52 per cent of the total population of Kerala.

In the case of agriculture; the loss calculated is Rs. 93.36 crore. When we think about the loss in agriculture, it has to be viewed from two aspects. One is the short-term loss and another is the long-term loss. In Kerala, we have got seasonal crops like that of paddy and banana. Damage to these crops is a short-term loss. But there are cash crop plantations like those of coconut, rubber, cardamom, where the loss is a long-time process. Once a coconut tree is lost, it takes five to ten years for the new tree to grow and to have an fruit. So, when the Government of India thinks of helping our farmers, these two aspects have to be considered. Moreover, our farmers are those people who have got small land-holdings - one acre, two acres or three acres. So, this aspect has to be considered also.

There is a heavy loss to the houses. The total number of houses damaged is 4.78 lakhs. Of this, 1.2 lakhs of houses have to be given relocation; 0.5 lakhs of houses are completely damaged and 2.08 lakhs of houses are partially damaged. Even the school children have been affected. About 20 lakhs of school children have lost their books, clothing, uniforms etc.

Another sector where there is heavy damage is the roads. The damage calculated

[Prof. K.V. Thomas]

for the roads is about 178 lakhs. Similarly, the loss caused to fishery products is Rs. 16.13 crores.

Another major area to which the Central Government has to give attention is the coastal line of Kerala. Kerala has got a total coastline of 560 KMs. It is estimated that there are 320 KMs. of vulnerable coastal line. Out of 320 KMs. of vulnerable coastal line we have put sea walls for 290 KMs. After the present flood and heavy rain, 110 KMs. of coastal line was affected. A total of 140 KMs. of the coastal line has to be given protection.

Now, here, I would like to bring an important point to your notice. We have got a total population of 254 lakhs out of which 35 lakhs of people are residing in the coastal line. In the whole world our coastal area in the most thickly populated place. Now during this calamity itself, 50 to 100 metres of land was eroded. The construction cost of a sea wall per kilometre is 5 to 6 lakhs of rupees. So, at this rate, for 140 KMs. the amount to be found is Rs. 840 lakhs. Here I want to specify one point. The Central aid for the construction of sea wall is 2:1 For repair, it is 1:1. My submission is this. We are spending crores and crores of rupees for the defence of the nation. Here is Sea, which has to be considered as an external aggressor. My request is this : The Central Government should bear the entire expenditure in this respect. A State like Kerala which is facing acute financial problems, cannot spare a single naya paisa for construction of sea walls.

In this connection I would like to congratulate the Government of India and our beloved Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for the timely and effective help given to our State. The State held to face very heavy monsoon and heavy flood in the beginning of July this year. Our Chief Minister Shri Karunakaran came to Delhi on the 5th of July and met the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister, and told them about our problems and they were satisfied. On the 8th we got the first instalment of Rs. 10 crores. That

is why I am telling you that it is 'timely' and 'effective' help. On the 11th our own Member and representative in the Cabinet Mr. Narayanan, came to Kerala and visited our State. On 13th and 14th, our own friend close relative, Mr. Buta Singh ji, came to Cochin and visited Kuttanadu, Idukki and other districts. And he was there for two days.

Sir, both Buta Singh ji and the Central officers headed by Shri Sikdar have come to understand the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Kerala which says that the total damage is to the tune of Rs. 743.36 crores. It is an actual fact that has been given. One point that I have to specify is usually when the Central aid is given for the relief work, 75 per cent is given as grant and the rest of the 25 per cent is the amount which the States have to find out. I am again repeating that a State like Kerala which is under heavy financial constraint cannot find out this 25 per cent. So, my repeated request is that the Centre has to give 100 per cent aid and the Centre can do it when there are extreme and acute conditions.

Sir, these natural calamities, even though they are not in such an acute stage as this year, are occurring every year. We have to take some long-term measures. I will point out only a few factors. One is roads. In Kerala every year we are facing heavy rain in monsoon, we have to repair the roads. Now, the technology that is being used now has to be changed. What is used is chipping carpet process. Instead of the chipping carpet process, another process called spray grouting process, which is 5 times costlier than the chipping carpet process but 20 times more efficient can be used. So, that has to be used and the Government of India should give ample help.

Another point is regarding land-slides. The land-slide is due to deforestation and cultivation near the catchment area. The Government of India should enact a law so that we can prevent deforestation. Flood is an usual occurrence. To prevent floods the present canals and waterways have to be deepened. More dams have to be constructed. In a special way I request

that when help is given to the State of Kerala, three cities should be helped separately, viz, Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut. Cochin is a city which is below the sea level. Every year when there is a single rain, the entire city is flooded. So, we have given a separate Memorandum to the Prime Minister and to the Agriculture Minister that they should given financial help of Rs. 5.21 crores to the Cochin city alone for finding out a permanent solution by way of constructing roads and constructing bridges.

Before I conclude, I would like to say a word of congratulation to the Government of Kerala under the able and efficient leadership of Mr. Karunakaran.

Sir, in the first week of July when this unprecedented flood occurred, our Assembly had adjourned. M.L.As. went to their constituencies. Ministers were asked to take charge of each district and relief measures started.

It was not a simple thing. Look at the relief measures taken. 120 lakhs of people were to be given free ration. Pregnant women and children were to be given milk and the total amount that has been spent on this account alone is Rs. 23.45 crores. 1,922 relief centres and gruel centres have to be started and the expenditure required was Rs. 7 crores. The cost of medical help and relief was Rs. 8 crores. Then, clothing and vessels that were to be given to the camps cost Rs. 6 crores. Repair to water supply installations and provision of water to epidemic prone areas alone cost Rs. 6.1 crores.

The Government of Kerala has taken such an effective step that there was not a single complaint. Our Union Ministers Shri Buta Singhji and Shri K.R. Narayanan visited the place. The Central team also visited all the places. There was no complaint because the State Government had taken effective steps. Before I conclude, I once again thank the Government of India, Shri Rajivji and our own friends, Shri Buta Singhji and Shri Narayanan for the effective steps taken.

I request once again that we have to take long-term measures to prevent the natural calamities.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): Mr. Chairman, Sir, natural calamities can be broadly divided into three categories. The first and foremost is drought. Second is flood and third is cyclone. Of course there are other calamities like landslide which occur in the mountainous region of India.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Gas disaster.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: It is a man-made disaster. There are a number of man-made disasters.

These are the three major calamities which India faces. The Government of India has already identified the drought prone areas. It has been from time to time introducing programmes and schemes for drought prone areas. But unfortunately, none of these schemes has been effective. They have been only of a temporary nature and have given only temporary relief. No permanent measures probably have been thought about to fight drought.

Indian economy depends mainly upon the vagaries of monsoon. We have yet to master the technology of correctly predicting the monsoon far in advance and instruct and educate our farming community to adopt themselves to the vagaries of monsoon. It has not yet been done. I understand that the Russian scientists have offered their technological knowledge to predict the monsoon in India. So, drought is a natural calamity. I come from an area, namely, Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh which has been described as chronic drought prone area. We have been suggesting from the very beginning that there must be a permanent revolving fund of not less than Rs. 1,000 crores. To meet these natural calamities wherever they occur and a Scheme must be evolved so that this fund is always available whether it is Union's contribution or the State's contribution or some other method or types must be found so that this revolving permanent fund is available for the purpose.

Yet another suggestion which I want to make is we must try to convert these natural calamities into natural advantages. Dry climate is considered to be very essential for the manufacture of certain goods and certain

[Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy]

items. Therefore, in drought-prone areas where dry climate prevails, we must identify the industries which can easily be located or the small scale industries which can be located and which can be effectively implemented. For instance, in a drought-prone area, it is not difficult to maintain poultry. After all, poultry does not require any watering or anything like that. Dry climate will help poultry also. So, we must identify the drought prone areas and also have a research done to find out the occupations, trade and industries which can usefully be taken up in these drought-prone areas.

Drinking water is a major problem in all the drought-prone areas. We have been trying to solve this problem of drinking water for men and for cattle also. We have not been able to solve the problem of drinking water. Underground water is being explored and exploited. But unfortunately even the table of underground water is going down. So, we have to explore certain other methods of supplementing and complementing this underground water.

ICRISAT is trying to find out which are the dry crops which can usefully be cultivated for these drought-prone areas. This research in dry crops which can be taken up in drought-prone areas must be intensified. Some new crops have been found which can grow up very easily even with little or scanty rains. In fact, afforestation can be taken up. There are certain species of forests with very scanty rainfall. They can withstand the drought and still give fruit. Such scientific aspects of forestry must also be investigated so that we are able to fight this drought.

With regard to floods, they will, according to me, create a number of problems. One of these problems is again drinking water. "Water, water everywhere but no drinking water." That will be the condition where floods hit a particular area. Floods, according to me, are not a natural calamity but they can be converted into a boon provided we have got the technological capacity to put heavy rains to use. We have to identify those areas which are usually affected by floods and we must find ways and means of diverting these floods to drought-prone areas or to other areas. A number of balancing reservoirs are essential to impound

this flood water to be taken to drought-prone areas or to areas where irrigation facilities are lacking. I submit Sir, that enough research has not been conducted on this aspect. For instance, we hear every year that Brahmaputra is in floods. Ganga is in floods and overflowing. I have been wondering whether Brahmaputra cannot be diverted to other areas also and that floods cannot be converted into a life giving water resource for other areas of India.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Mr. Reddy, have you at any time seen the Brahmaputra ?

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : No Sir, That is why I have been wondering why cannot it be diverted to other areas.

S. BUTA SINGH . If we can divert Brahmaputra, we can stop the rains.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : If we try to do that, we will be diverted

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Lastly Sir, cyclones. Sir, Andhra has got 6000 Kms. of area under cyclones and we have been facing devastating cyclones. In fact, I would urge the Minister to locate a number of wind mills along the coast to draw power and energy. This is an area which is found to be most suitable for converting wind into energy. All the coastal areas can be converted into wind mill converting energy resource provided we have got the technological resources as well as the equipment for doing that. Sir, as I have already submitted, I urge the Government to set up a permanent relief fund of not less than Rs. 1000 crores for meeting this natural calamity. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. P.J. Kurien, A number of persons are to speak. You are allotted only five minutes.

PROF. P J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Thank you Sir for calling me. Once again this country has been plunged into devastating floods and torrential rains. A number of persons have died. In Punjab and Himachal Pradesh it has been reported that more than 55 lives have been lost. In

Kerala alone 102 persons died. That is the latest report we have received and even now we have not recovered from this shocking havoc.

Sir, it is a pity that even after six five year plans, we are not able to successfully control the floods. In every plan we are allotting a huge amount for the control of floods. But it is seen that year after year the damage and havoc due to floods and natural calamities are on the increase. Sir, national policy on floods formulated in 1954 has laid down a time bound programme for eliminating the floods. They have said that within a period of 12 years we should be able to contain this havoc. But unfortunately during the last 12 years its devastating effects only increased. Sir, according to the available figures the loss due to floods in 1956 was only to the tune of Rs. 523 crores; whereas it has increased to Rs. 2459 crores in the last year. This shows that every year the loss due to floods is on increase. Now whenever there are floods or natural calamities, we think of some relief measures, some ad-hoc or interim measures. We are not actually having permanent measures by which flood can be controlled. So, I would suggest that the Government of India should think of having some permanent major scheme by which floods can be controlled.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : (Howrah) : There is the Flood Control Commission.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : There is the Commission, but no action.

Some time back there was a proposal to connect all the major rivers in India from north onwades to the South. I know it is a very ambition scheme and requires crores of rupees, say, about Rs. 10,000 crores. But assistance may be availed from World Bank which we can be available of. We should have to think of such steps as to control the havoc of floods once and for all. I am very happy that this time as soon as the calamities occurred and as soon as the news spread, the Government of India acted very quickly. Coming to my State of Kerala, I am very happy that as soon as the matter was reported to the

Prime Minister he released funds from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and also the Government of India sanctioned Rs. 10 crores immediately and within a couple of days another Rs. 15 crores was sanctioned to my State. Not only that, as it is said by Prof. Thomas, hon. Minister Sardar Buta Singh visited, Mr. K. R. Narayanan visited our State and the Government of India has shown all sympathy to the State of Kerala. But for this assistance from the Government of India and but for the timely action taken by the Government of Kerala, I submit the loss would have been much more, especially the loss to human lives would have been much more.

Coming to the problem of the State of Kerala, the State has three different types of regions. One is the hilly region, then there are the lowlands and the sea-coast. It is unfortunate that all these areas are vulnerable to one or the other type calamity. The hill areas are vulnerable to landslides. I am coming from the constituency of Idukki which is full of hill areas and a number of landslides occur and due to landslides 28 persons died and four families were completely wiped out. Then there are the lowlands. Then the sea-coast is completely prone to sea-erosion which is a phenomenon not seen in many other States. (*Interruptions*) It is in Bengal. I know. It is in Andhra Pradesh. But it is not in Utter Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh because they do not have sea. Due to these floods and landslides 102 persons died, 78 000 persons were injured and 900 villages were affected. 4 lakhs houses have been totally damaged in the Alleppey district and 80,000 families were rendered homeless. Such is the devastating damage which and I cannot go into more details for want of time.

Only on the agricultural front I want to say something. There is heavy damage to the annual crops and also to the perennial crops like pepper, banana, ginger and other crops....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to Idukki and finish your speech.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : I am coming to Idukki because Alleppey, I know, is your constituency. I will stick to Idukki.

[Prof. P.J. Kurien]

So coming to cash crops which are mostly grown in my constituency, 5000 hectares of pepper have been totally damaged and another 5000 hectares have been partially damaged. Then coming to cardamom, 4500 hectares of cardamom were totally damaged and another 4000 to 5000 hectares partially damaged. Like-wise there is damage to rubber, ginger and other cash crops. Ginger is an export-earner. 4800 hectares of ginger crops have been damaged. In Idukki district alone, which produces the cash crops the total loss is estimated to be more than Rs. 50 crores. But one thing is to be specially noted. The effect of this loss will be spread over many years. If there is loss in paddy or in some other yearly crops, the effect is for one year only and within a period of one year you can recover the loss. But in the case of rubber, if a rubber plant is damaged, it takes seven years for a replanted rubber tree to give yield.

If a coconut tree is lost it again requires seven to eight years. Therefore, the loss is going to be spread over a period of seven years. This will result in heavy drain on our foreign exchange earnings. I request that this aspect should be taken note of when the Government of India is providing assistance.

Coming to sea erosion, it is a special phenomenon in certain States. Like the defence expenditure, the expenditure on sea erosion should also be made on a national basis.

Sir, the Government of India is sanctioning assistance to the States in respect of natural calamities under certain norms. Under these norms 75 per cent is given as grant and 25 per cent as loan. There are some States which are very economically weak and, as such, cannot generate funds to be used for these relief measures. Kerala is one such State. I do not want to say that the award of the Eighth Finance Commission to Kerala is discriminatory. The norms were such that we were not at an advantageous position. So, we are not having sufficient funds to generate and provide as relief. So I request the Hon. Minister to give 100 per cent assistance to the State of Kerala

and also to Punjab and Himachal Pradesh which are all suffering due to the floods and natural calamities.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh) :
Sir, the most illustrative examples of vagaries of nature we have in the country today. There are floods in the North and South and severe drought in Central India. We have one of the most severest droughts in the western part of Madhya Pradesh. There is acute shortage of water and fodder. I would like to mention in this august House that 20 per cent of the cattle wealth of the area has died because of lack of fodder and people have left their cattle just to die because they have no fodder and no water for their cattle.

The Hon. Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister have very kindly give us some funds for drought relief but in spite of that our State Government is facing problem and, as such, additional funds may be provided to the State of Madhya Pradesh. Our State Government had imported some fodder from the neighbouring States, especially Gujarat, but now I am told that Gujarat Government has put a ban on the import of fodder from their State. The consequences of such an eventuality are very apparent. Farmers are in an extremely bad stage and some of these districts mainly Rajgarh and Shahjapur which are cattle breeding districts, there the very bread and butter of the farmers is being snatched away. I sincerely appeal to the Agriculture Minister to consider some kind of payment of compensation for the cattle wealth to the farmers of these districts.

Sir, in these districts drought has become a regular feature. The first step of desertification has started in these districts. The forest wealth has been finished off. Erosion is taking place at a very high rate. Although six districts were selected in Madhya Pradesh long back in 1963-64 under the drought prone area programme, unfortunately the districts which were essentially included under drought prone area, were left out and unfortunately those districts which were not drought affected districts were included.

I would therefore request the State Minister in the Department of Rural

Development, Shri Chandulal Chandrakar, kindly to consider earlier districts which were to be included, under the drought prone area programmes, specially Rajgarh district, and see that these districts are included in this programme. They are really drought affected areas and the programme should be taken up immediately in those districts.

Sir, because of the ground water table going low, the potable water has become absolutely scarce in those districts and because of lack of potable water, the guinea-worms which have affected the population most severely in these districts exist in potable water. The potable water carry those germs. About 750 villages in my constituency have been affected by guinea-worms. But unfortunately there have been no programmes undertaken either by the State Government or by the Government of India to eradicate this menace and solve this problem. Some kind of scheme has to be taken up by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture to recharge the ground water table in those areas.

The Works and Housing Ministry had sanctioned funds and hand-pumps were installed in those districts. But they have gone dry because the water level has gone so low that the people are not able to get water from the sub-soil water level. One of my earlier speakers had mentioned about the linkage of the Ganga-Kaveri Canals. I welcome his suggestion and I plead with the Hon. Minister that the linkage of Dastuts Project of Ganga-Kaveri Canal should be given in thought. Something must be done about this because every year our country faces calamity, that is, either there is an acute drought in many areas or there is a devastating flood in other parts of our country. There has to be some integrated programme for water resource development so that such situations can be avoided.

[Translation]

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is a very big country. Whereas some places witness drought, the others witness floods due to which heavy losses are suffered. You might remember that I had raised a discussion on drought conditions in the country during the

last session and detailed discussion had taken place on it, and it may be discussed in this session also. At that time also rains failed and there was no snowfall. Many States had witnessed drought conditions and had suffered a lot due to that. Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and many other States had suffered heavily. At present I shall like to say about my constituency. The entire State of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed drought conditions last year to failure of rains and absence of snow-fall. People did not get any relief uptil now. The people had not reconced from that sad experience when the floods occurred due to heavy rains this year. Other States have also suffered heavily. Punjab, Bihar and other States have also suffered, but Jammu and Kashmir particularly my constituency in the State has suffered heavy losses to due to floods in River Chanab. You might have read in the news papers that at least 50 persons have lost their lives and about 300 to 400 families have been rendered homeless. Similarly, Punjab has suffered heavy losses. I am grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister that last time when the State had witnessed drought conditions, the State got 4000 tonnes of foodgrains every months in addition to the fixed quota of 12,000 tonnes and we were able to provide foodgrains to the people living in far flung hilly areas. In this way we had been able to overcome the difficulties being faced due to failure of crop and provide relief to people.

Since you have rung the bell, I would like to offer one or two suggestions. My first suggestion is that a team of experts should be sent there to assess the losses suffered and suggest the action to be taken to face the problem in future. I remember that about 5-7 years back, when such a situation had arisen there, an expert Mr. Uppal was sent there. He visited the place where floods used to occur and losses suffered. He managed in such a way that no floods have again occurred there. I understand that our bureaucratic machinery does not act in time and they visit the place only after the loss has been suffered. People, who have suffered losses, must be given more and more relief and another team of experts may be sent

[Shri Janak Raj Gupta]

there and more funds should be provided to avoid such situation in future.

With your permission, Sir, I would like to bring one thing to the notice of Government. The poor people living in jhuggi-jhonpri and Kacha houses always suffer in the event of drought or floods. People used to say that Punjab problem can never be solved. But our leader and hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has made achieved what was considered to be impossible. By his wisdom and statesmanship he established India's supremacy in the world and has proved that India can lead the world. While we could perform such a miracle why can't we solve the problem of jhuggi dwellers, whose houses are washed away every year when the rivers are in spate. The poor people are rendered homeless. Some arrangements should be made for them also. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to say a few words about the difficulties of my people. I represent Trivandrum, which is the capital of Kerala has a 'peculiar geographical position. There is a coastal belt of about 40 kms on one side and about 20 kms east, there is the hilly region of Schiyadari. On one side is the sea, on the other side is the hilly area. This leads to sea erosion on one side and on the other side are the land slides.

Actually the people are between the devil and the deep sea. The coastal belt is the most affected area of the Kerala State. There is a road parallel to the coastal area and several lakhs of people are confined in this narrow belt which is roughly between 50 to 200 feet in width. In 1981 Census, it is stated that Karimkulam, one of the places in this narrow coastal belt, is the most densely populated area of the whole of this country and you will understand the inhuman conditions under which these people live. I am not going to deal at length with the miseries and difficulties

these people face because I want to point out some constructive proposals to redress their difficulties.

The first thing is to have a sea wall in a phased programme. That only can help these people from further encroachment of the sea.

Housing is another important factor which has not been mentioned by any of the previous speakers. Because of the present sea erosion, several thousands of huts have been totally washed away along with the land and as a result they have lost their houses and the house sites. The only way to rehabilitate them is to have multi-storeyed flats, so that they may be permanently rehabilitated. As you know, they are now living in Gruel Centres and Anti-disaster Centres. People cannot be planted like trees and they cannot be uprooted. They have to be permanently rehabilitated. So, I would plead with the Minister to see the possibility of providing a few multi-storeyed flats there.

Another factor is providing employment opportunities to these people. They have lost every thing that they had. They have lost their homes. The fishermen folk have lost their nets and boats. The coir workers have lost their husk and all their belongings. So, employment opportunities should be provided for them.

Another major factor is the problem of drinking water. In the coastal area there is a great scarcity of water. Water has to be brought from some other resources to this coastal area. So, special provision should be made for providing water to this coastal area.

Almost in the whole area, the roads are now completely dilapidated. So, I would request that special provision should be made for repairing these roads.

I am sorry, with the limited time at my disposal, I am not able to do full justice to my people. Anyway, I am thankful to the Chairman. And I am also thankful to our Hon. Prime Minister for coming in a big way even at the beginning. I am happy that the Prime Minister has abundant grace to do

the right thing at the right moment. I am also thankful to Shri Buta Singhji, who has graciously visited the whole area. The people there were facing calamity and they are in a chaos and agony. I am happy that his visit has given a sense of belonging and a sense of security to them. I congratulate the Minister and I plead that he may have top priority for this area for rehabilitating the people.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling) :

We are discussing here a very serious problem - national calamities. Sometimes we face disastrous floods and sometimes we face acute drought and other calamities like land slides in hilly areas, etc. Every year, we have to face either of these calamities. Such calamities destroy life and property of the people, damage crops and create famine conditions and difficulties for the people, specially to those who reside in the rural areas of our country.

According to the report of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power for 1984-85, the total value of damage caused by floods and cyclone during the season of floods was of the order of Rs. 1,651 crores in 1984 and it was Rs. 2,460 crores in 1983.

Cyclones and heavy rains in November, 1984 affected many parts of Andhra Pradesh causing considerable damage to property and loss of human life.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, at the same period, 16 districts of Tamil Nadu were adversely affected by rains and flood. Sir, floods of varying intensity occurred in different parts of the States ranging from Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura and other places causing tremendous damage to human lives and properties.

Similarly, drought has affected many states causing enormous loss to the lives and properties of the people.

Himachal Pradesh has been suffering from the loss of nine crops since 1980, due to successive drought situation in recent years. This has made the condition of the

people pitiable. Who is mainly suffering? The marginal, small and tribal farmers are worst sufferers. They lost about Rs. 1500 per head due to drought.

Sir, in Orissa also villagers of Kalahandi district have seriously been affected by drought for the last two decades. Distressed and jobless people are starving, and some of them are selling their children at Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 for want of food for the last 20 years, and it is going on. Then a lengthy list of such woeful and miserable people could be cited. Sir, I do not want to take much time. Sir, by mentioning all these examples would not help. But the question is, even after 37 years of independence, why do our people have to suffer due to such calamities? I should say that we have no realistic plan to contain it. That is the faulty plan. That is why every year we have to lose so much money human life and property. Sir, nature has bestowed on us so many things for the well-being of the people, but our *Bhagya Bidhatas* have totally failed to utilise them. When such calamities occur a handful of persons at the helm of affairs, amass huge money at the cost of the people. No relief and rehabilitation works are done. Neither sufficient funds are allotted nor proper distribution of allotted funds is there. That is my allegation.

Recently a serious allegation of malpractices and defalcation of relief money at Mithilanchal in Bihar has appeared in the press. Sir, We find the peoples' cooperation are never sought in relief operation. But Sir, I can cite you an example. In West Bengal when there was unprecedented flood havoc in 1978, the entire relief work was entrusted to newly elected Panchayat bodies. They did commendable service in rescue and relief operation which was highly appreciated throughout the country and abroad. Not a single person had to leave the village. They were provided food, cloth and shelter. Sir, the whole Panchayat bodies rose to the occasion and provided relief and rehabilitation to the suffering people. Therefore, I should say, there should be proper scientific planning and for implementing this planning, peoples' cooperation should be sought.

DR. K. G. ADIYODI (Calicut) : Sir, I thank the Hon. Speaker for allowing three

[Dr. K. G. Adiyodi]

hours to discuss the flood situation in Kerala and other part of the country, and also Shri Buta Singh Ji for visiting Kerala in this hour of distress, and for seeing with his own eyes all the possible areas i.e. Indukki and other places, where a majority of people belonging to weaker sections live near the sea shore, people who have lost their houses and are living in rescue homes, getting their rations, medical aid and all such facilities.

Floods and natural calamities are not new to us. Every year we are facing them, and in a haphazard way we render aid to the victims without taking all possible steps to prevent them. Of course, it is impossible to prevent natural calamities, but we should try to do whatever is possible. Science and technology are with us

A lot of norms are prescribed for helping the needy during natural calamities. The hard lines drawn viz that 75% expenses should be given as grant, and 25% is to be borne by the States, while rendering assistance, are totally unacceptable during these days.

Especially in Kerala, the topography of the land is peculiar. We have the mid-land, the high land and the sea coast. We have the hill tops which are 5,000 ft. above sea level. We are always facing cyclone-like winds. Even grass does not grow there. Due to land hunger, people disturb land for their livelihood. As a result, land is eroded. It falls into the sea and into the rivers. The river beds are raised. When there is rainfall in the Western Ghats, within 5 or 6 hours water reaches the sea. Except for the water contained in a few reservoirs meant for hydro-electricity and irrigation, the rest of it flows into the sea through the rivers.

The legend of Kerala is this : once Lord Parasurama got wild while seeing the rough sea. He threw his axe, to reclaim land. The axe fell into the deep sea. He thus reclaimed about 100 miles of land from the sea.

I think this year, the sea is very cruel to Kerala sea walls. We are facing an unprecedented distress this year. About 60 years ago, i.e. in Malayalam Era-90, there was such a flood, and resultant distress.

The pattern of assistance should be such that 100% grant is given to Kerala and other places. Even now rainfall is torrentially falling over its Punjab, Assam and other places. They are facing a lot of problems. Unless we have a scientific approach to prevent this distress, as far as possible, we will not be able to prevent this from happening...every year.

My request is that we should de-silt the river mouths to avoid floods, and also construct sea-walls on war footing basis in areas where the National highway runs parallel to the sea coast like Alappi, Ernakulam. Mahe, Tellichery etc.

There is an inland waterway from Kasargode to Trivendrum which is flooded with sand; and whatever water is there, flows towards the east, and not towards the west into the sea which adds to the flooding.

So, it is felt that heavy rains and water are doing a lot of damage. They should adopt some scientific approach and funding should be scientifically managed so that the weaker sections of the people, fishermen and adivasis can get the maximum help out of this for their future

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : This recurrence of floods as part of the natural calamities is very well known to this House and there had been discussions on this topic even earlier. This year, what has happened is that an unprecedented drought has been followed by unprecedented floods. I was in Poona District of Himachal Pradesh when very heavy rain started on 19th of July; and within hours, the Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar road in Punjab and that part of Himachal Pradesh lying on the border was flooded. Consequently, many lives were lost. And when we were coming by road, we saw cattle lying dead on the road. It is only a distance of 38 kms from Hoshiarpur to Jalandhar and the road is quite high; it is not subject to flood, but the very picture can be imagined that on eight points on the road there was gushing water which was about 6-8 feet deep and all vehicular traffic was stopped. A part of the bridge was washed away; a road was also washed away and about six persons

lost their lives; and the Deputy Commissioner is still assessing the situation. I am happy that our Minister for Agriculture, Shri Buta Singh had an aerial view of the devastation caused by the floods in the Punjab. He must have also a glance of what has happened in the Una District. Therefore, while it is very good that he has immediately rushed help to the Punjab; Rs. 10 crores has been given. I would request him to rush immediate help to the Government of Himachal Pradesh and sanction Rs. 5 crores more for Himachal Pradesh so that various works can be taken up immediately. If rain continues, then more damage can be done; more roads can be breached; even part of the railway line between Pathankot and Jalandhar has been breached and the railway traffic has been diverted via Amritsar. So, people in Jalandhar told me that ever since 1955 this has been the record for the rain and 88 mms of rain has been recorded within 12 hours in that area resulting in the breach of a canal, flooding two or three districts: Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar in addition to part of Himachal Pradesh and Una District.

What is more important on the occasion is that the Government of India should set up a permanent mechanism. The floods are recurring; even drought is coming every year. So, why should we have a need and why should we wait for a team to go from Delhi? Sometimes a team is constituted; it takes time and officials have their own programmes. So, generally, it is a question of about a couple of weeks or sometimes even a couple of months before a team reaches on the spot.

Now, you have so much liaison with the State Government. You have various officers to coordinate their activities with the P&T, with the railways, with transport and many other things. Why don't you have one office there permanently in each State Capital so as to take up the idea of the relief, the project for relief immediately, as soon as a natural calamity comes. I would plead with the Hon. Minister that he should evolve some mechanism by which every Deputy Commissioner or a District Magistrate should have some fund at his disposal so that he can rush relief immediately. Sometimes a bandh has to be cons-

tructed overnight. Now, if the money is to be sought from the State Government or from the Central Government, then it would take a long time. So, I would plead for a permanent mechanism to help all natural calamities, whether it is drought or flood. There should be some provisions at the district level so that they can be managed without further loss of time and similar other things can be managed; some road can be provided, some other thing at every district level so that they can be pressed into service and they have not to wait for the army or some other agency to come forward to their help.

16.15 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

Sir, one other idea that is worthy of note is that we had a big commission, the National Flood Commission, which gave a big report. But the reports are forgotten as soon as they are submitted and the result is that action is not taken. What is urgent is not a commission, not a committee; it is the urgent nature of action that can help people. I would plead in this hour of crisis that immediate help should be rendered to the Himachal Pradesh Government, and the districts which have been worst affected should be provided with the necessary funds so that roads which are washed away can be constructed, bridges which have been removed by the vagaries of nature can be re-installed and also the necessary funds and other things should be provided.

Sir, whether far South or North or East or West a calamity is a calamity. The Central Government should come forward with help and funds. We can say that whereas floods have brought misery to the people, but something good can be brought out of it, if some permanent mechanism can emerge out of the problem, so that in future human lives can be saved, and help can be rendered to the affected people.

With these words I request the Hon. Minister to help the Himachal Pradesh State Government in the relief and rescue

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

operations immediately as it is in dire need of funds.

[Translation]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thousands of years ago Lord Buddha had told his disciple Anand about Patliputra which is now called Patna that that city shall always be in the grip of floods, arson and mutual rift.....

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) : All these three things still exist there...

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Patna stands for the entire Bihar. I am not aware of arson and mutual rift there Mr. Ghafor might be aware of it. I know something about floods.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : It appears in his newspaper only.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Whatever you say is published in the newspapers.

Even after 30 years of independence Bihar has been facing the problem of floods as it had faced earlier. One of my friends had said a very good thing. He had said that he would tell me about a radio news. You will not be able to tell whether this news pertains to July, August, 1947, or 1950 or 1965 or 1970 or 1982 or 1984. The news says that Bihar has witnessed devastating floods and thousands of persons have been rendered homeless. I would like to say that if people die of cold or heat any where in the country, it happens in Bihar only. When people die in floods, it also happens in Bihar. No doubt that natural calamities are there, but man-made calamities outnumber them. Crores of rupees have been spent on measures to control floods in Bihar after independence. Everybody knows where this money has gone. I mean to say that Bihar is rained by floods either in Kosi, Kamala, Gandak, Bagmati or Mahananda.

Floods have caused heavy losses there. I would like to say that if all the M. Ps coming from North Bihar get an opportunity

to bring and show here video tapes about the condition prevailing in their respective constituencies, it will open your eyes and you will come to know about the state of affairs prevailing in the country. It is a matter of shame for us.

If the people of a country have to live on trees or boats for a period of 4 to 6 months in a year, then will you call it a civilised way of living ? For which fault of theirs they have to suffer from floods every year ? You have spent so much money for this purpose. Have you ever tried to ascertain where this huge money has gone ?

Flood affected people suffer heavily. Their crops are damaged. They suffer from diseases like, Malaria, Kala-a-zar, cholera, etc. People used to call it Janak's Mithila in older times, but now it is called the Mithila of hell.

Water flows from Nepal. There is no body to construct dams etc. to check this flow of water. Hundreds of persons and cattle are washed away. Crops get damaged. People are rained. This is the state of affairs in Bihar.

At present about 6 lakh persons, who have been displaced, live in Delhi, Ghazia-bad, Fraidabad and other adjacent towns. They belonged to rich families, but their condition became worse due to floods year after year. They became poorer and their condition became worst. People may rise above poverty line elsewhere but in North Bihar, in Mithila they are going below the poverty line. The proof is those labourers, whom you call Poorvi Bhaiyas or Biharis, and at whom you laugh. All these people have come here under compulsion. They have not come here willingly.

Some permanent flood control measures should be adopted in Bihar. Such a situation should not be allowed to continue there that people suffer from floods and diseases every year. Unfortunately, people suffer heavily in Bihar, particularly North Bihar and same thing is repeated there every year. Very little help is provided by Centre as well as the State Government. But no permanent solution has been found yet.

At the instance of Shri Lalit Narain Mishra Pt. Nehru had got Kosi Project prepared, but now there is nobody to take such initiative. Is it not possible to construct dams on Kamla, Gundak, Bagmati or Mahananda ? Are the people of North Bihar destined to suffer all the miseries ?

Leave aside North Bihar, the people of Bhagalpur etc. will also be affected as level of Ganga is likely to rise considerably. The state affairs in South Bihar and North Bihar is worst. Timely measures should be taken to remedy the situation.

***SHRI A.C. SHANMUGAM (Vellore) :**
Hon. Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words about the recurring natural calamities and in support of the Resolution that has been moved by my Hon. friend Shri Thomas. Nature's fury has been unleashed on many parts of our country. As has been pointed out by Hon Members from Kerala, about 146 lakhs of people have been afflicted by ravaging floods; thousands and thousands of tenements have been washed away. The State Government of Kerala has sought Central financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 700 crores. Though the Central Government may not be in a position to give Rs. 700 crores; but at least a sum of Rs. 400 crores should be given to the State of Kerala to undertake flood work. On behalf of southern States I demand that the sum of Rs. 400 crores should given forthwith to the State of Kerala.

Sir, you will find the monotonous repetition about the flood havoc in the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Irrigation. On an average the annual loss due to floods has been estimated to be of the order of Rs. 800 crores. On account of unprecedented floods this year, the damage may go to the extent of Rs. 1800 crores. Shri Thomas and Shri Reddy pointed out that there must be a long-term solution to the recurring floods. They have stressed the need for a perspective planning also to tackle the recurring floods. Year after year we in the House discuss about floods and drought in the country. The Ministers also assure that adequate steps

are being taken to minimise the flood havoc and drought affliction. But natural calamities like floods and drought have become a part of national life. This year we see that the people of Kerala, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Assam are reeling under the roaring floods. While North is suffering from floods, the southern States are afflicted by drought. This has been the recurring phenomenon in our country.

It has been acknowledged that only 30% of cultivable land is served by irrigation facilities and the remaining 70% of cultivable land depends upon rain. Shri Reddy referred to the unfortunate fact of waters of Brahmaputra, Ganga, Yamuna and Narmada going waste into the sea. In other words, we are wasting the national asset of water. We have not formulated any effective plan for utilising all the available waters for irrigation. The Hon. Member from Madhya Pradesh referred to Ganga-Cauvery link up scheme, which is the lasting solution for the recurring floods in the North. The people of southern States have been demanding for decades that this scheme should be taken up, as it will yield twin benefits - save the northern States from flood havoc and serve the Southern States with water for tackling perennial drought. The question huge investment running to thousands of crores should not stand in the way of implementing this scheme. The Government of India should not hesitate to solicit financial assistance from the World Bank to implement this scheme, which will alone save the nation from nature's fury.

Recently the flood warnings have been issued in the States of Bihar and Orissa. Here, we have not so far paid any attention to the de-silting of perennial rivers. If we deepen the rivers by removing the silt and mud, the flood havoc can be minimised. I suggest that there should be a well-drawn out de-silting plan for the national rivers.

The Irrigation Commission of 1972 in its report has declared certain districts in southern parts of Tamil Nadu as perennially drought afflicted. They have specifically mentioned by name certain taluks also in southern districts of Tamil Nadu in this respect. If the districts of Madurai, Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli are to become pastures of green, then the

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A. C. Shanmugam]

only solution is east-ward diversion of waters of west flowing rivers which go waste into Arabian sea through Kerala causing inundation all the way. The Irrigation Commission has referred to this. The Technical Committees appointed later by the Irrigation Ministry and the Planning Commission have also recommended this. I demand that this project should be taken up for giving relief to the people of southern districts of Tamil Nadu, who are perennially the victims of drought.

Sir, the Mettore Dam in Tamil Nadu, which is the only major Dam in Tamil Nadu, gets water for 8 months in a year. The water supply in the river Cauvery has got depleted because of construction of dams on the tributaries of Cauvery by the Government of Karnataka outside the Five Year Plan with an investment of Rs. 250 crores under non-Plan head. The district of Thanjavur, which is known as the Granary of Tamil Nadu, will become an arid zone, if Cauvery water is denied. I appeal to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Central Government that they should take initiative in resolving the long pending Cauvery water dispute. If this is delayed any further, then the entire Tamil Nadu will become a desert. The Hon. Members who preceded me were referring to several inter-state river water disputes. As our inimitable leader Dr. M.G.R. has been repeatedly stressing, all the rivers should be nationalised; they should be declared as national assets. Presently the inter-State river water disputes are hampering and impeding the implementation of irrigation projects. In other words, the people are denied drinking water and water for irrigation. There is presently the classic instance of Karnataka Government objecting to the execution of Telugu Ganga scheme. Such hurdles can be removed only by declaring the rivers as national assets.

Before I conclude, I would refer to the inexplicable method of functioning by the Central Government. The financial assistance to flood relief is treated as grant, while the money given for drought relief is treated as advance Plan money. This is wrong. Both are natural calamities and

there should be no discrimination in central assistance to flood relief as also to drought relief. Shri Reddy stressed the need for an exclusive annual allocation of Rs. 1000 crores for drought and flood. If the planning Commission allocates 1% of the Five Year Plan allocation, it will come to Rs. 800 crores. There should be no delay in the matter of extending financial assistance for flood relief as it is a question of human misery. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, whichever part is afflicted by flood or drought, immediate financial assistance should flow from the Centre to that part. I need not elaborate on the non-elastic sources of revenue for the States to undertake flood relief works. At the same time, the State Government is the nearest organ for the suffering people to render assistance. Sir thus it becomes the imperative necessity for the Centre to rush financial assistance to the States afflicted by floods or drought. The Centre should formulate such a scheme of financial assistance to ameliorate the misery of masses reeling under flood or drought.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN (Alleppey) : Sir, it is quite unfortunate that unprecedented flood in some of the States have created much havoc in this country. The South West Monsoon in Kerala caused heavy rainfall in most of the Parts of the State for about two weeks resulting in floods, landslides and sea-erosion. In North India also, in U.P., Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Assam etc. the flood situation assumed alarming proportion causing death to so many persons.

Regarding the Kerala flood situation, my friend Mr. Thomas has given a true picture of its gravity and seriousness. As he has said it affected 146 lakhs people i.e. 52 per cent of the total population in my State.

The total number of deaths comes to 120 and the total number of injured is 7,400.

The entire economy of the State has been disrupted on account of severe loss to agriculture and fisheries.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the Kerala Government for taking immediate relief measures like giving food, clothing, medical care and shelter to the affected people. 1,922 gruel centres and relief camps were opened. Free ration was given to 120 lakh persons. The total loss calculated by the Government comes to Rs. 743.36 crores. My constituency, Alleppey, is the worst affected place in the State. Nearly 60 000 persons were taken to the gruel centres from my constituency alone. Many other people also became homeless, but they went to the houses of their relative and friends.

Kuttanad, which is the 'Rice bowl of Kerala' is completely under water, causing heavy damage to the paddy crops. Nearly one and a half lakh acres of paddy fields are affected by the flood in Kuttanad alone. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri Buta Singhji was kind enough to come to Kerala to see the situation. He has flown over Kuttanad and seen the places under water. Our Hon. Minister Chandrakarji has also visited this area before and studies the peculiarities of the place. The entire Kuttanad area is below the sea-level protected by bunds. All the bunds are broken and the entire area is now under water. Thousands of people live in huts constructed on the bunds and they are all now homeless and live in gruel centres or houses of their friends or relatives.

The conditions of these poor people are pathetic even in normal times. They do not have even pure water to drink. The same water in the Canal which is used for answering the calls of nature is used for drinking and bathing. The pesticides used for crop protection is mixed with the water they pump out into the Canal. The living conditions of the people in that area are so miserable that it was a big surprise to the members of the Central Team who visited that locality very recently. Even Chandrakarji was surprised how the people are living there in such a miserable condition.

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI
BUTA SINGH) :** They don't drink water;

they are fond of 'arrack' which they locally brew !

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :

Sir, the State Government has requested for the aid of Rs. 25 crores for strengthening and raising of the water bunds in Kuttanad. My request is that this amount may be sanctioned to save these poor farmers who always fight with nature, because, the whole area is below the sea-level.

In Kuttanad alone, more than 40,000 persons were taken to the gruel centres. The need for the development of that area is felt now by all. It is a long-standing demand by the people of Kuttanad to form a Kuttanad Development Authority for the overall development of that area. Now I understand that the Kerala Government is inclined to take some steps for the same. I request the Central Government also to take necessary steps in this direction.

In my State we have the mountain in the East where people are killed by landslides. In the west we have the sea where the sea-erosion is terrible and people are made homeless. Their properties and coconut trees are being eaten away by the sea. In between the sea and the hills, there is serious flood havoc. As far as I am concerned, nearly half of my constituency is under water.

If we want to properly rehabilitate these poor people, we require the assistance of the Central Government and that too in a big way, immediately.

I am indeed thankful to the Central Government for immediately coming to our rescue and for sanctioning Rs. 25 crores as advance for relief work. But it is only a small amount when compared to the gravity of our debacle.

In conclude, I request the Central Government, on behalf of the Members of Parliament from Kerala and on behalf of the people of my State, kindly to help us in a big way, when we are really helpless due to the unprecedented floods, landslides and sea erosion. With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN
(Rozera) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, floods and

[Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan]

drought have become the permanent feature in our North Bihar. The floods are also accompanied with natural calamities like deficient and excessive rains and drought. These have become a regular phenomena. I must thank the people of that area who continue to live there by taking these big calamities in stride.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are, perhaps, aware that the floods in North Bihar have become a regular feature and the people of that part of the state suffer on this account every year. It affects our industry, agriculture and transport. Human beings face three kinds of sufferings—hunger, bodily suffering and domestic sufferings. The houses of the poor people collapse, standing crop is washed away and they face starvation. The people are exposed to post-flood diseases which take epidemic form. Apart from loss of life and property, they also lose their cattle heads. No solution to this problem has so far been found. The Government spend billions of rupees to control these calamities, but no permanent solution is in sight.

Recently, the hon. Minister had said while replying to my question that billions of rupees have been given as grants and there are four or five schemes also for this purpose. If these schemes are completed certainly, the human beings which fall victims to the natural calamities will be protected, but the officials are playing with the lives of the people. Flood is curse for one and boon for the others. On the one hand the people are reeling under the flood and on the other the officials raise their palatial buildings from the relief fund, thus cheating the people. Government funds to the tune of crores of rupees are spent in the name of relief, but it never reaches the affected people. Now, relief is not meant for the people, it goes into the pockets of the local officials. The embankments constructed under these schemes do not provide protection. The embankment work, when started, is not completed and is abandoned midway instead. The Kamla-Balan embankment has been abandoned at Kothram, which otherwise, should have been constructed upto Fuhaiya.

Last year, you might have heard that Eastern Kosi embankment was breached as a result of which thousands of houses were washed away overnight. Many people suffered loss of life and property. Engineers also visited there and orders from Government were also issued that the breaches in the embankment should be repaired during the dry season. The funds are allocated, the contractors get the contracts and just sleep over them and come to repair the breaches only during the floods. To construct an embankment while the river is flowing is nothing but throwing dust into the eyes of the people. They should construct the embankment during the dry season when soil is available. Bhagwanpur embankment has breaches, Rajwada embankment has breaches, Kamla Balan embankment has also breaches, and is also weak at places. Crores of rupees are sanctioned by the Government for carrying out repairs, but the money is not being put to proper use and, thus, they are playing with the lives of the people. If a check is kept on these things, a permanent solution to the problem can be found. Strong embankment should be constructed there on both banks. The area prone to flood should be connected with drought-prone area and canal water should flow to drought areas. If we do it, the drought problem will not be there. In our area, there are ravaging floods on the one hand and on the other there is severe drought. At present, our area looks like an ocean, the flood water has caused a havoc. This is the fury of the nature. The nature is giving us water 100 times more than our requirement, yet we are not able to utilise it. The floods have broken the back bone of North Bihar. The farmers have abandoned cultivation. Kushesharsthan, Singhia, Biraul and Ghan-shyampur present the view of a huge sea.

Arrangement should have been made for draining out of water, but even that has not been done. There are big pits at places. Water outlets could have been provided at areas of Mukama and Kushesharsthan. That water could have been diverted into the Ganga, but this was not done. I shall request that Kamla-Balan embankment, Gandak, Bagmati and Kamla projects should be completed as early as

possible so that the people of these areas could heave a sigh of relief. Thousands of acres of land is submerged in this fury of nature. Thousands of houses are destroyed. Thousands of villages are being remained, what to talk of houses. Estimates put the loss at Rs. 20 crores in North Bihar alone. Therefore, you must find out a lasting solution to this problem. Do not cheat the people by sanctioning relief, it is proving to be a relief to the officers. You see to it how much of the sanctioned funds is actually being spent. Just have the information how much the people have been benefited.

Drought is such a calamity which hits thousands of acres of land every year. You can take up lift irrigation schemes there, but instead, you provide state tube wells there. I am not opposed to state tube wells, that is also necessary. But there is no provision of drains there, as a result of which everything is lying idle. Therefore, State tube wells, drains as also lift irrigation should be provided. River is flowing just one and a half mile away and had the Government a will, it could have proved as a boon instead of a curse. The land of that area is quite fertile but it has become a curse now and nothing is being done in this regard. I want to submit to the Hon. Minister that, you do provide a large amount of funds to Bihar, but it is not being put to proper use. We want that a lasting solution to this problem should be found. Kamla-Balan Barrage Embankment should be extended, Gandak project should be completed and such a barrage should be erected which is strong and not vulnerable to floods. The officers and Engineers there claim that the repairs have been carried out and, as such, the entire funds have been exhausted. We want the work to make further headway, but their staff do not want to do anything are openly playing with the lines of the people. I hope that you will pay special attention to it, so that the benefits of your allocations could reach the poor.

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) ; Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Seventh Finance Commission has said that if a calamity which occurs to a State is of an extreme

nature, 100% compensation should be given by the Central Government.

With regard to the Kerala floods which have occurred recently, my submission is that this should be treated as a matter of extreme calamity and 100% compensation should be given.

I am thankful to the Minister of Agriculture who visited our State. But I will be doubly thankful if you can make it possible to get 100% compensation.

Kerala has got a peculiar climatic condition. It so happened while I was there in April, there were conditions of drought. I saw people staging demonstrations for drinking water and also the Commissioner or some officers of the Central Government visited my Constituency which is now very much affected by floods and drought. But, at the time the Officers came, it was raining because they came after 15 days of receipt of the information. The floods visit the area in the month of May beginning and by April end, there will be severe drought and by 2nd May and June, there will be floods. They occur suddenly one after the other. So, when the persons of Central Government visited the area, they were at a loss to understand what actually the damage is and what repercussions it has got on the economy of the State. This is a peculiar condition in my State.

I feel that certain area will have to be declared permanently as accident-prone or natural calamity prone area and some measures will have to be taken to meet this permanently and not temporarily, even though this may occur once in a decade.

I will suggest two things in this matter. One, the present situation in my State is that of scarcity because the price of a kilo rice is Rs. 5/- and the price of a kilo fish is Rs. 35/- and the price of every essential article has gone up because of the flood and famine conditions. Such a situation has to be met with a pragmatic approach of sending first of all the essential commodities from other areas to this area so as to lessen the prices. This is one of the services, one of the biggest things which the Government can do without spending a much of money. The roads are now damaged. As my friend

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

has suggested the roads have to be built up whether there are floods or drought in the area. There are natural calamities and also man-made accidents in my State. In my Constituency, half of the population are on the threat of a dam bursting and washing out a large population of the area. It is published as a big news item. There is a dam called Kallada. There is now 16 sq. KM water-logged area having 136 ft height water in the high ranges. There is a report that the dam is leaking. It will be a tragedy on a bigger scale than Bhopal. It has happened because of the natural calamity of the heavy rains and water is stocked there. But man has contributed to it by making a dam without proper cement and proper application. What the Government is going to do about it?

There is another case which I would like to point out, the Edamalayam dam. This is a hydroelectric project, people have gone to investigate it. In a situation like this, it may blast like anything because the water has gone into the rocky area susceptible for blowing up. Like a volcano it has come out because of the water pressure in that area. It has been reported in the press that a very dangerous situation has occurred in the Eastern side of Kerala.

These dams are in a very dangerous position. This has been reported in all our newspapers with photographs that water is leaking. I have seen a photograph of a Minister in Kerala going and watching the area. A threatening situation has developed there. This is man-made and also a natural calamity.

Who are responsible for these things? Who are the persons who have not used the cement which is supplied to them? Those who have looted the money of the exchequer should be found out and punished. That is my suggestion. At the same time, investigations should go and see that this should not happen anywhere else in the country.

I am bringing this to the notice of the Hon. Minister in Kerala that this is a very dangerous situation which has to be dealt with, utmost importance and sincerity.

May I suggest another thing also Sir? In the present situation, the norm of declaring, famine in India is different from what the British code had stipulated. That has not been changed yet. Even after independence, we are following the British system to declare as famine affected area. Those norms were fixed before independence. First of all, that has to be changed, Sir. In the present context, a new code will have to be formulated, to say who are the areas which are to be declared as famine-prone areas. Then Sir, I also say one word about the political aspect of this. This is a thing which is of human importance. It has to be considered in a humanitarian way. Sir, mostly at times such incidents have been used for political propaganda and political capitalisation. Sir, my submission is that wherever it occurs, action has to be taken immediately. I would suggest that an all party committee will have to be formed in which every political party should be involved and associated in the relief works.

Sir, I would also like to suggest one more thing. The bureaucrats, reports may not be awaited in such cases. When a Chief Minister reports that there is a serious situation, immediately something will have to be done. In 1973, I am glad to say that when the Janata Party was in power, they took immediate action when it occurred in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Both the Chief Ministers, who were not of Janata Party appreciated that action was taken immediately on the spot for relief works. Also in West Bengal Sir, action was taken on the report of the Chief Minister that famine had occurred. So my submission is that we should never wait for the bureaucrat to go to inspect drought situation and come back to give a report. This may not be repeated in this country. These are my suggestions in this regard.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, we have got natural calamities like cyclone, flood and drought in different States of India. There is a need for developing a methodology for predicting drought and flood well before it occurs. Of course, temporary relief is given. But it must be seen how best the problems of calamity affected States can be solved permanently. Orissa is a State where poverty is in plenty.

This State is facing the natural calamities almost every year. Natural calamities have taken a heavy toll of lives and property in Orissa. Virtually, it is threatening the State's economy. Last year, seven districts of Orissa were affected by drouget, wiping out crops completely. Ganjam district in Orissa and my constituency Aska are the worst affected areas by drought, both last year and this year. The cultivators have sown the seeds either by way of broadcasting or by way of raising seed beds. For want of rains they are now looking at the sky and the seedlings and paddy plants have completely perished. The Central Govt. has been very generous to Orissa. The late Prime Minister, Madam Indira Gandhi had extended her helping hand always. Even on her birthday she was in Orissa, talking to people suffering from natural calamities. Our present Prime Minister is going to Orissa tomorrow to visit the districts which are worst affected by drought and mostly inhabited by Adivasis and Harijans. They are Kalahandi, Pulbani and a portion of Sambalpur.

17.00 hrs.

My submission would be that as far as Orissa is concerned, in one part of Orissa people are spending sleepless nights when there is a flood in the river because they are threatened with devastation by the floods and in another part of Orissa people are looking at the sky praying to the rain God, Indira for water. Through there are big rivers, all their waters go into the ocean and they are not utilised for irrigation. So to solve the problem, the different river basins are to be connected cutting the hillocks. Importance should be given to major, medium and minor irrigation projects including lift irrigation projects and maintain them. Sufficient funds should be given so that the State can improve the irrigation facilities and utilise fully the waters flowing in the rivers which are otherwise cause causing devastation and breaching the canals and river embankments and sand-castings. The Centre should come in a big way to see that the major projects for which the Orissa Government has approached the Centre are sufficiently funded. As an immediate measure, the Central Government must come forward and

give sufficient financial assistance to the State Government to meet the present situation.

In 1983-84 the Agriculture Ministry gave Rs. 3 crores to Orissa soil conservation including for water harvesting structure. This water harvesting structure serves the purpose of preventing soil erosion and also irrigation if not for the rabi but certainly for the Kharif crop. I would request the Minister that this year he should give at least Rs. 6 crores for this water harvesting structure which have proved very successful.

Then coming to my constituency, Ganjam district it is the worst drought-affected district. Steps should be taken to expedite the construction of the major irrigation project of Harabhangi which is proceeding at a snail's pace and minor irrigation project and canals are to be repaired and maintained. Similarly, unless a reservoir is constructed on Rishikulya river, the whole district may turn into a desert. Steps should be taken to have a reservoir at Nupally near Gallary. Minor irrigation projects like Landai, Billumax and Kuppatty which should be taken up. Then immediate steps should be taken for lift irrigation which is an assured irrigation.

Before concluding, once again I thank our beloved Prime Minister who is visiting our State tomorrow to see the conditions of Adivasis as well as the worst affected drought areas of Kalahandi and other places. It will certainly give consolation relief and courage to the people of Orissa to face the situation.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : With great anguish and distress I am on my legs to tell the Minister and this House the misery of my small State of Kerala caused by the recent monsoon floods, sea erosion and landslides. I will not be going into the details of the damage caused as my other colleagues have narrated them. But I take this opportunity only to stress that the recent floods have upset the economic condition of the State in all sectors.

* The loss is very high and it will take years to bring the situation back to normal

[Shri T. Basheer]

condition. The vigorous rainfall caused unprecedented floods, sea erosion and landslides. The callousness of the calamity is beyond words. It is estimated that over 52 per cent of the population in the State has been affected. Nine hundred villages out of one thousand four hundred and sixteen villages have been very badly affected. Nearly five lakh houses, both hutments and 'pacca' buildings have collapsed. Thousands of people have become homeless. They are now in relief camps. They have lost everything. Farmers have lost their crops all over the State. It is estimated by the State Government that the total loss in agriculture sector will come to Rs. 161 crores.

In my constituency the most affected people are the fishermen. They have lost their traditional boats, nets, stakes and all. They are deprived of their livelihood. The Kerala Government has taken all possible steps to protect the people and provide relief in terms of food, clothing, medical care and shelter.

We are grateful to the Central Government as they have responded and acted with a sense of urgency and seriousness. The Hon. Ministers, Shri Buta Singhji and Shri K R Narayanan have visited the affected areas in Kerala. The Central team were there and they are going to submit their report very shortly. The estimated expenditure on relief, repairs, re-construction and restoration in all sectors in the State is estimated to be to the tune of Rs. 743 crores. The Kerala Government have submitted a memorandum regarding this. I am not going into the details. The Government have, in their memorandum presented a detailed assessment of damages and have requested for funds for relief and repair.

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Sir, I request to the Government that the flood situation in various parts of the country should be treated as a national calamity. I want to stress that there is a usual pattern of Central assistance in such circumstances, namely, 75 : 25-75 per cent by the Central Government as

grant and 25 per cent by the State Government as its share. But considering the financial constraints of the Kerala Government I request to the Government of India to meet all the expenses in this regard. There is no difficulty. Both the Seventh and the Eighth Finance Commissions have made recommendations to this effect.

Sir, some of my friends have congratulated the Central Government. I reserve the 'congratulations'. We are, no doubt, grateful for what they have done in this situation. I am hopeful after considering the Report the Central Government will give adequate finance to meet the situation. In this connection, I would like to lay some photographs showing the flood situations in some areas, on the Table of the House. Thank you.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last three years, continuously, we have been facing severe drought in Karnataka. This year, the situation is still worse. Out of 173 taluqs, only in 100 taluqs kharif sowing is done and in the remaining 73 taluqs sowing has not taken place. This is the present situation. Moreover, in the coastal areas also, the rainfall has been very scanty. Chickmagalur district in Malnad area is facing an acute shortage of drinking water. Almost all the reservoirs in the State are not filled up. The major Linganmakki Dam is not having sufficient quantity of water and this Dam is mainly producing power for the entire Karnataka State. Last year, the Central Government was kind enough to provide about Rs. 30 crores to meet the drought situation in Karnataka. An amount of Rs. 167 has already been spent by the State Government to meet the drought situation. This year, there is hardly any chance for spending any money for this purpose because of financial constraints faced by the State Government. I would like to give a few permanent suggestions for the consideration of the Government so that the drought situation in the State could be met.

All on-going irrigation projects in Karnataka should be continued and sufficient allocation of funds should be made

for the same in the Seventh Plan so that more areas can come under irrigation. Secondly some funds should be allocated for the construction of percolation tanks so that water table availability is increased in the wells and bore-wells as also sub-soil water level. Third, sprinkler and drip irrigation should be encouraged in a large-scale. I have read in the newspapers that the NABARD is going to stop subsidy to big farmers for sprinkler irrigation scheme and only small farmers are eligible to get this benefit. If sprinkler irrigation is encouraged, it will not only give remunerative benefits by means of providing less water for various purposes but also this kind of education would be more cheaper and economical. Therefore, sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation should be encouraged, in large scale so as to fight the drought situation in various parts of the State.

Lifting of water should be permitted from the main canals and -distributaries wherever possible, by the farmers. Water is being lifted from the major rivers on the left side but not on the right side of the rivers, due to the levels being high. I am told that some States have already permitted the farmers to draw water from the canals on the right side also. I would submit that the same system should be permitted in other States also. Sir, in so many places, fodder is being used for the industrial purposes. This should be totally banned because some of the industries like mini-paper mills and other industries are using the fodder as their raw materials. The use of fodder for the industrial purposes should be banned totally in the country.

As I have already mentioned, the power situation in Karnataka is very much acute. We request the Government of India to see that power is made available to Karnataka from the neighbouring States like Maharashtra and Kerala, where they have abundant power, at a reasonable rate. Power is the main input for agriculture as also for industries. Last year during summer due to power cuts and power shedding, the summer crops could not be sown properly. I, therefore, request that power should be provided to Karnataka from the neighbouring States.

More foodgrains should be allotted for Karnataka for this year. Karnataka has already made a proposal to the Government of India to allocate more funds and foodgrains to face the drought situation. This problem has to be treated on humanitarian grounds and should be tackled on a war footing basis.

Then, there are a number of problem villages, where we cannot get water for drinking purposes in spite of all our efforts due to salinity or otherwise there is no water is there and in some of the villages, we do not get water even if we dig down upto 300-400 feet. There are certain restrictions to dig water in the problem villages, like only Rs. one lakh has to be spent, and the radius should be only 2 kms. These restrictions should be totally removed, otherwise we do not get any one single village, where we can explore the possibility of locating drinking water within the scheme. Therefore, these restrictions have to be removed. Wherever there are problem villages for purposes of drinking water, they must get top priority and huge amounts should be spent for getting water from any source.

Afforestation should be resorted to on a large scale. Not only that, whosoever cuts a tree, he should be severely punished. Because of the cutting of trees, rainfall is becoming lesser and lesser. We must, therefore, plan about afforestation properly.

17. 18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

As far as agriculture is concerned, we must have proper planning. Now-a-days, farmers are very anxious to take to commercial crop or cash crop, whichever is profitable. There should be a proper planning, for example, one third of the land should be kept for growing foodgrains, one third each for commercial crops and oilseeds fodder. So as to have a balanced planning.

Finally, I request the Government of India to allot minimum Rs. 50 crores as against Rs. 200 crores which the State Government has asked to tackle the drought

situation. We should not wait for the Central team to go there, assess the situation and report back. That will take a long time. By that time, the people will be starved. The want of relief work.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, We are discussing here the subject of natural calamities which have become a permanent feature in the country and as a result of which there is much suffering.

In our country, if there is a flood in one part, there is drought in the other. Just now, our Hon. Minister have mentioned the names of many places. For instance, if there are floods in Kerala, Orissa faces drought. If there is a flood in Bihar, there is a drought in Uttar Pradesh. Thus, floods and drought have become a permanent phenomenon in our country.

Therefore, I would like to say that as long as you do not find a permanent solution to this problem, the condition of the farmers in the country will go on deteriorating and they will be becoming dependent on others for foodgrains. You can see that these floods have become a curse for us.

Our neighbouring country China has the largest population. They also used to face similar floods and droughts due to which their people had become poor and their bodies used to shrink. Their river Huang used to be called a demon. That river was not only a curse for them, but the people also called it a 'grief'. As long as Chiany Kai Shek ruled the country, he could not control it. They got independence in 1949, two years later than us and a socialist Government was formed there and that Government was able to tame that river and today it is considered to be a Goddess.

For ten long years I had been raising discussion on flood and drought conditions in the Vidhan Sabha and today I have got an opportunity to speak on this issue in the Lok Sabha. Such discussions are held regularly. Your party has been in power for the last 38 years. What have you done

during their period of 38 years? Just now, two Hon. Ministers have said that you have spent crores of rupees on flood control measures. Where has this money gone? This money has been pocketed by the politicians, officers and engineers. But you never cared to know how public money worth crores of rupees is being utilised. Had you paid attention towards it, we would not have been compelled to discuss the situation that prevails in our country today.

The country is facing famine-like situation. It weakens the country and increases unemployment. Today, Bihar is in the grip of floods. In North Bihar Darbhanga, Motihari and Madhubani are in the grip of floods. Floods are affecting certain new areas. The flood is not a calamity which comes once in 10 to 20 years. This natural calamity has made a permanent place in our country.

When we look at the situation in Haryana and Punjab, we realise that after 30 years certain new areas are getting affected by floods.

Jamui was a drought prone town, but Upper Batuwa Dam has breached and today floods have occurred there. In 1974 Patna City witnessed unprecedented flood. People had to go from one place to another by boats. Even M.L.A. flats had been submerged. You have not been able to solve flood problem.

The Central team set up for the purpose makes an aerial survey of the flood affected areas and submits its report making an assessment of the damage. On the basis of this report you provide funds amounting to a few crores of rupees. The families, which are rained by floods, have nothing to do with the funds you provide like the persons who were killed at a result of "Kameshka" crash. You should keep a watch to ensure whether the funds provided by you are being utilised properly or not.

You have formulated a new flood and drought control scheme. It is called Muhana Dam Scheme. It will prove a boon for South Bihar. Today it has become a curse. Flood and drought control schemes

are formulated but they remain unimplemented for ten years or so. No body pays any attention to it. Your reply will be that due to paucity of funds you are unable to execute that scheme. The land where this scheme is to be executed is 70 feet high and water has to come down from that height. In case you are not able to construct a ducca dam there, at least a canal can be constructed which will help in solving flood and drought problem.

Last year floods had destroyed certain Villages. Nothing has been done so far to save those villages. Pirogha Village in Gaya District of Bihar has been affected by floods. In case remedial measures are not taken, a large number of persons and cattle will die. It is a matter of shame that nothing has been done so far to save this Village. Your reply will be that it is the responsibility of the State Government. If it is the responsibility of the State Government then why a central team is sent to conduct a survey there.

We come from a flood prone place. The whole of Kurtha Block in our district was destroyed by floods last year. For full one month the entire village remained submerged and crops were totally damaged. Pun Pun project is also lying pending. In case this project is cleared, flood and drought problem will be solved for ever. The farmers, who intend to give up agriculture as their profession due to floods and drought, will again come back to their profession. Their children will not become unemployed. The country will become prosperous in every field and our independence will further be strengthened.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that crores of people in different parts of the country are facing difficulty. During the last few years Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Orissa had to face natural calamities.

Last year 31 district were affected by drought in Uttar Pradesh. During these two months of the current years, hill areas, and Western and Eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh have also been affected by severe drought resulting in drinking water crisis

there. At certain places, even murder took place on the water issue. In Dala a can of water was available for Rs. 2. It has become a very acute problem. This reminds us as the conditions once prevailing in Ethiopia and Sudan. Recently, B.B.C. has shown a T.V. report on the conditions prevailing there. There might have been hardly a sow which remained unmoved after viewing that report on T.V. This calamity has always been there in one form or the other.

There are two type of measures short term and long term measures to avoid this situation. Our former Prime Minister had formulated D. P. A. P. programme for drought prone areas, but I am pained to point out that the schemes formulated by her have not so far been implemented. Under the aforesaid programme many schemes were formulated in Uttar Pradesh.

(Interruptions).

So far as my district Mirzapur is concerned, I am much pained to say that all the projects approved by her, have not been implemented so far. The foundation stone of Sone Lift Project, Bakhar Belan Diversion Project, Adwa Dam Project had been laid by her. Besides, she had ordered the construction of 36 embankments. Most of them are lying incomplete. Some of them have, however, been constructed. The lands of farmers were acquired. The Central Government has shelved those schemes either due to paucity of funds or due to some other reasons. Besides, special funds had been provided in the Sixth Five Year Plan for six special types of areas in the country, i.e., drought-prone areas, flood areas, hilly areas, tribal areas and cyclone-affected areas. But in the Draft Seventh Five Year Plan I did not come across any such provision. It is most essential that the schemes formulated to get rid of flood and drought schemes should be completed immediately. A survey of these areas should be conducted and dams constructed. Perennial rivers should be identified in drought-prone areas. If water is made available in these areas through lift irrigation schemes their problem can be solved. As has been already said by me, the foundation stone of Sone Lift irrigation schemes was laid by our

late Prime Minister. If this lift irrigation scheme is implemented there, the water problem of entire drought-prone area of Mirzapur can be permanently solved. The work on this project should have been completed by now because it was started in 1974. Long term policy should be framed for drought affected areas in the entire country whether it is in Andhra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu or elsewhere. Now, the time has come to complete these schemes by allocating some funds from the huge Rs. 1,80,000 crore 7th Five Year Plan. Crores of rupees spent every year to save the people from these calamities should be spent on finding a permanent solution of these problems. For this purpose, you will have to complete all these schemes.

There is no doubt that a National Flood Control Board exists in our country but most of the schemes sent to the States could not be taken up due to paucity of funds with the State Governments as a result of which dams could not be constructed and floods can be prevented. Under one scheme afforestation was to be resorted to on large scale in the entire Ganga-Yamuna belt where forests had been denuded. Under that scheme dams etc. were also to be built there. This work is also not making any progress. In case we depend on State Governments for this purpose, we will never be able to get rid of these two problems. People will recall the situation created by floods, drought and hailstorm in the country in the year 1982-83 when 31 crore people of India were affected by them and about 5 crore hectares of land was under flood. At that time also certain States were careless and they did not properly utilise the funds given to them. The Hon'ble late Prime Minister had given Rs. 700 crore to Uttar Pradesh, which did not submit the memoranda in time. It was the worst affected State, but it could not get a single penny on the technical ground that it had not submitted the memoranda in time. That is why its request was turned down. Today we should not depend upon State Government. The Central Government will

have to act firmly and prepare schemes to solve both these problems. When this issue comes up, the Opposition raises the matter concerning the Centre, State relations. I would like to submit that for God's sake and for country's sake issue of Centre State relations should not be raised so far as national problems are concerned. Sarkaria Commission may not be approached for this purpose. Resources are being mobilised for the Seventh Five Year Plan. When I wanted to know about the resources being mobilised by various States, I came to know that they are unable to mobilise the sources. It is necessary to see that subjects like irrigation, agriculture, flood, etc. do not remain State subjects. I would like to say that if necessary, the Constitution can be amended. On T. V. we had seen a heart-rending scene depicting what happened in Ethiopia. So far as this country is concerned, we are proud to say that due to the steps taken by Government during the last 30 to 35 years no starvation death has come to notice despite all these natural calamities. Nobody can say that there had been any starvation death in 1982-83. I would like to submit that there might not be starvation deaths as such but it definitely affects lives of the people.

I do not want to take much time. This year funds have been provided to States under the head 'Drought and Floods'. In 1982-83 Uttar Pradesh was not given any funds. When planning was under taken in this country, Uttar Pradesh was at number two or perhaps one, but the pace of development in Uttar Pradesh has gone down slowly.

In the last 15 to 20 years, Uttar Pradesh has suffered devestation due to drought and floods as a result of which necessary infrastructure could not be built there. However our state has produced great men but it does not mean that justice should not be done unto us. I, therefore, want to submit that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture should not depend on the State Governments. There were floods in Kerala at a time when nobody could think of it. Our weather forecasts prone wrong. We hear news in the radio that there would be

rains and sky would remain overcast but actually nothing happens. The forecasts regarding drought and floods proves wrong. I think our scientists need further research in this matter. I am very grateful to our Scientists in the country because only due to their efforts there has been progress in the field of agriculture and agriculture produce has increased. But I think more facilities should be provided to them so that they may make forecast correctly regarding the drought and the floods and caution the people and Government of the country in time.

In the end I express my thanks to you for the opportunity given to me for speaking I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Pyare Panika, on the one hand you have talked about floods, on the other hand, you have talked about drought. Then you have mentioned about the Meteorological Office and their forecast. The only solution is to change the course of the rivers. This is a national project. Other things cannot be solved.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : The Hon. Member Shri Panika has spoken about U. P. The U. P. Government has sent details. The Hon. Minister may please provide funds to U. P. expeditiously.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, famines; floods, cyclones, earth quakes are all national calamities. Unless the Central Government provide assistance to combat the national calamities, we will not be able to face them. These days no State is capable of combating these calamities alone. There was such type of Calamities in Kerala. There was earthquake in Bihar and situation of famine was created in the desert areas. So with a view to combat such national calamities I would like to suggest that a National Calamity Fund may be established. The money should be contributed in the Fund by every State on the basis of population and in tune or

any other criteria you may fix. Assistance from the National Calamity Fund should be provided to that State which is in distress. Such arrangement should be made. We, in any case, shall not be able to face such big disasters. In my constituency Barmer-Jaismer, there has been famine for four years in succession but the State Government are not fully capable of combating it. What ever help the Centre provides, it is very meagre. The assistance is provided by way of margin money, advance plan and by fixing some ceiling which is not sufficient. Those people do not get any employment. The Government of Rajasthan should start relief work in December but it start the same not in December, January, February, but in April and March and the people have to go outside for employment. They have to go to Haryana, Punjab or Gujarat. In this way they cannot be helped. So it is necessary that assistance in the case of famine should also be given in the same way as is given in case of floods viz, expenditure for 75 per cent non-plan expenditure. The assistance provided for famine is very meagre. The assistance given to us by way of plan advance does not help us much because Rajasthan has very small Plan. In times of severe famine, the Plan advance is of little help. Margin-money is also very meagre. Under such circumstances we cannot help the people and as a result thereof, great discontent prevails among the people. So, I would like to submit to the Government that in order to deal with a situation created by national calamity the Central Government should provide relief.

My next point is in regard to the Rajasthan Canal. If target is fixed for completion of this Canal in the Seventh Five Year Plan, then the problem of drinking water in Rajasthan can be solved. By utilising the water of Rajasthan Canal, Pastures can be developed and this way permanent arrangement to provide fodder for the cattle can be made. Whenever there is famine, the cattle shift to the banks of the river Ganga. Some times they go to Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and as many as 75 per cent cattle die. Our economy depends on the Cattle. We have cattle of good breed. Therefore, the work on the

Rajasthan Canal should be exsented expeditiously to same these cattle. As 90 per cent subsidy and 10 per cent amount as loan is given as assistance to the Hilly Area Development Programme, similarly the Desert Development Programme should be taken up. Action should be taken to eradicate poverty of the people there. In times of famine, priority should be given to N. R. E. P. and R. L. G. E. P. works. The norms should be changed so that some permanent solution may come out under N.R.E.P. and R.L.G.E.P. Whatever works are under taken during famine, live works pertaining to roads, excavation of earth are left incomplete there after in spite of having spent lakhs of rupees on them. I would like to submit that whatever is undertaken, whether it is road-building or works relating to soil conservation, it should be completed. If the work is not completed, the same year, then the money goes waste. We should make efforts to solve these problems whether they pertain to drinking water or fodder. Whatever fund is provided in advance plan, it is not spent judiciously and as a result thereof, it goes waste. So it is my submission that whatever provision is made in the advance plan, it should not be diverted.

I would like to submit that there has been rainfall in only 50 per cent area of Barmer and Jaisalmer districts and in spite of this our Government have stopped famine relief works. Now the problem before the people is how to earn livelihood. They have no means for cultivation during rainy season. So there should be provision of taccavi loans and cooperative loans for them. So that they may start cultivation.

I have expressed my views regarding natural calamities. This problem should be tackled on permanent basis keeping the entire country in view. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba): Sir, it is said that prevention is better than cure. But it can be argued that so far as natural calamities are concerned, it cannot be applied there. If you take into consideration the money that has been spent for

eradication of drought and also for prevention of floods, the achievement is very disappointing. So far as flood protection programme is concerned, the achievement is rather disappointing. People have to suffer heavily in both drought and flood. In floods the whole crop is damaged, the property is destroyed and lives are lost. In drought also the crops are destroyed and the lives of cattle are lost. So, till the achievement is good or hundred per cent successful in these cases, all the three categories crops property and life should be insured at concessional premiums. If the whole crop is damaged, then at the most the help and relief that is given by the Government i.e. short term loan is converted into medium-term loan. If the crop is insured, he is to gain. So far as the property is concerned, if the house is destroyed, at the most Government gives some sort of subsidy and loan. It is not his fault if his house is destroyed by the floods. Why should he incur the expenditure in building a new house? For the present, the Government gives subsidy to the extent of Rs. 2000 per house and Rs 8000 by way of loan, which is not quite satisfactory. So, I would suggest that all the properties in the flood prone areas should be insured. If the property is destroyed, they should get full insurance. So far as heavily flood prone areas are concerned, even the people should be insured. Drought prone areas have already been identified. But the success is not quite satisfactory. I would suggest that indrought prone areas all the crops should be insured.

But on the land the agriculturist and the agricultural labour depend. If the crop is insured, then the agriculturist will be benefited. So far as agricultural labour is concerned, he will lose his means of livelihood in case of flood and drought.

In Maharashtra there is some employment guarantee scheme. That employment guarantee scheme should be applied in every area where drought takes place. If that scheme is implemented, then there is a guarantee that the agricultural labour, and even the agriculturists whose crops have been destroyed, will have some guarantee of

income. So, that scheme should be employed everywhere.

For the present, there are hundreds of villages in Maharashtra where drinking water has to be supplied either by carts or by trucks. Why it is so is because the scarcity of water is there in those areas. There are some drought-prone areas. We cannot force the rains to fall there. Since we cannot force the rains to fall, the Government has to take water to those areas, from whatever source it is available, and see that their crops are not affected. Even if the source of water is far away, it should be tapped for drinking and irrigation purposes. If that is done, there will be no need to supply drinking water either by trucks or by carts. Now we are in July. In Maharashtra, normally the monsoon starts in the month of June. But as there are no rains, scarcity of drinking water is there.

For the present, the formula of giving assistance to the States is, as one of my friends has said, that 75 per cent grant is given by the Central Government and 25 per cent is to be borne by the State. But there is a limit also. The limit is that if it comes to 5 per cent or more than 5 per cent of the funds that have been allocated for the year for the particular State, then the entire amount over and above five per cent has to be borne by the State. This is not proper. This I cannot understand. The State cannot be blamed for those natural calamities. If it is not the fault of the State that there is drought or flood, it is a natural calamity. Therefore I would suggest that the formula should be applied without any limit. Thank you, Sir.

(Translation)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai)
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, floods and drought are two natural calamities which are not the problems of one particular State. They have become a national problem. It is a very serious problem. At present I would like to confine myself to my constituency only.

In my constituency there are six legislative Assembly segments out of which four

segments are severely affected by floods. If you go to that side you will come across a huge area like small Ocean. In 1972 and 1977, when I was a Member of Bihar Vidhan Sabha. I had drawn the attention of the Government of Bihar to these problems. In 1980, when I first came to Parliament, I had also drawn the attention of the Central Government towards these problems. In 1985 also I would like to draw the attention of Government towards these problems. The only difference is that at that time, I had drawn the attention of the Chief Minister towards the problems being faced at Panchayat Samiti level to district level. Whereas in Parliament I would like to draw the attention of Shri Buta Singh, who is present here at the moment and I hope he will definitely pay attention towards this. Prior to him, Rao Birender Singh and Shri Gani Khan Choudhary were the Ministers concerned and I had drawn their attention again and again towards these two problems being faced in my constituency.

Problem No. 1 is of Soil erosion. Extensive soil-erosion is caused by the Ganga, the Kial and the Harohar rivers. Even one river is sufficient to cause loss of life and property. But in my constituency, there are three rivers which are causing soil erosion in ten Panchayat and it seems that there are as will totally Vanish. Despite the Central Government or the Bihar Government spending huge amount on irrigation projects or Bihar Government, the people continue to reel under the fury of floods and drought. I request the Hon. Minister that the projects for preventing soil-erosion should be executed expeditiously so that 10 Panchayats of my area can be saved from being submerged in water.

Long term schemes should be formulated instead of short term schemes for this purpose. Only the people can get benefit otherwise the schemes will prove ineffective. Why does the government not execute a long term scheme in this regard? No doubt that I have become an M.P. but I feel that my constituency is still in bullock cart age. It has become an island. It has become difficult to supply

[Shrimati Krishna Sahi]

medicines, seeds, fertilizers and food products to this area. The greatest difficulty is that transport system has come to a stand still.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give an example As has been stated by an Hon. Members, several Commissions were set up to study irrigation and flood control measures. In 1954-55 an amount of Rs. 10 lakh was spent on flood control measures and 1 32 lakh hectares of land came under irrigation whereas during the 6th Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 129.76 lakh was spent and 120 17 lakh hectares of land came under irrigation. Flood caused damage worth Rs. 11 crores during 1951 whereas damage worth Rs. 1743.92 crores was caused during 1982. The situation is very grave. The greatest tragedy is that people of my constituency are facing man-made water scarcity also.

I would like to submit that the then Union Minister of Works and Housing had written a letter to the Bihar Government on 15th July, 1980 in which it was stated that Government of India had given an assistance of Rs. 7 04 crore to the Bihar Government for advance planning for the supply of drinking water. In this connection I would like to submit that on 16th May, 1985 a Minister of Bihar Government had written a letter to me and again on 21st May, 1985 a district officer had written a letter to me. The letter states-

"Due to geographical reasons, the water level has gone down which has resulted in less water in wells in rural areas this year also as happened in earlier years...

We have not been able to execute water supply schemes due to paucity of water in the wells in rural areas this year." Due to the indifference of the Department of Health, we are unable to provide drinking water facility.

It is a matter of regret that many medium and major irrigation schemes are pending since 1964 and 1967. It means that their cost will go on increasing and

the people will not be able to get the desired benefit.

I would like to submit that the major problem of soil-erosion should be solved. In my area there is acute ecological imbalance. Recently, I attended the meeting concerning implementation of 20 point programme. In that meeting I had enquired about the whereabouts of the Forest Minister. A man stood up. I asked him how felling of trees was being allowed. He replied that he was there to ensure plantation of saplings. When I asked him about the Excavation Officer, he replied that he had proceeded on four month's leave.

I mean to say that such things happen despite our Prime Minister's and our Government's repeated warnings to them that it is essential to maintain ecological balance. While drawing attention of the Hon. Minister towards the alarming situation of ecological imbalance in my constituency, I expect Government to take effective steps and issue necessary directives to the Bihar Government in this regard.

18 00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my State, Kerala, has suffered very heavily because of cyclone, flood, sea erosion and landslide.

The Kerala Government, led by our beloved Chief Minister Mr. Karunakaran and his cabinet colleagues, rose to the occasion and rendered timely help to the suffering people.

Sir, the difference between the crop loss of North India and South India is this. There are cash crops in Kerala like Rubber, Cardamom, Coconut etc. Coconut takes more than 8 to 10 years to get income. After it starts given yield, it will give income for another 30 to 40 years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Member may please resume his seat for a short while. Now it is 6 O'clock. There are still many Hon. Members who want to speak.

AN HON. MEMBER : How many ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : 10 to 15 members. We want to finish it today. You have to confine yourselves within the time. I go on ringing the bell but nobody is listening.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : At least some equality should be there. Some get 5 minutes. Some get 10 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time is fixed, that is, three hours. Lists are given by the whips; when there are many members wishing to speak, you have to cooperate and you have to adjust. I request Hon. Members not to repeat the same points.

SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI (Fatehpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request you to extend the time by one hour more. Then the Hon. Minister will reply.

SHRI PRIYA RAJAN DAS MUNSI : Some one will speak on drought; some other will speak on flood.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, shall I extend the time by one hour with the consent of the House ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon Members should cooperate; otherwise all the other members cannot participate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, next time you please give less time to the initial speakers and more time to the speakers who participate later on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Member may please continue his speech.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL : Sir, the yearly crop is quite different from the long-term crop in Kerala. If a rubber or a coconut plantation is lost, it means, one planter's life is lost because he cannot plant again and wait for another 10 years to get income from

that. It is very difficult. So, the Central Government must give more aid to those people who lost their long-term crops. I request the Central Government to introduce crop insurance for those cultivators and give long-term loans and also interest-free loans. Cooperative societies must be given more amounts so that they can distribute them to the cultivators. Free manure should be supplied by the Agriculture Ministry to the cultivators. Loss worth Rs. 740 crores has occurred in Kerala. More than 100 lives have been lost. After independence, Kerala suffered drought only once, that is, two year ago. Now this is the second calamity which has occurred in Kerala. The States which are near to Delhi are getting more help from the Central Government. But States like Kerala (which are far away from Delhi) are not getting enough share of this aid. I am telling this to you because during the last 38 years, you can find out what is the amount given to Kerala compared with other States, for natural calamities. If you compare this figure, you will easily understand that Kerala State get very negligible amount compared to their heavy losses.

The Minister visited our area and I am thankful and grateful to him for seeing the calamity and consequent loss there for himself. All the roads are damaged there. More than a hundred crores of rupees are required for repairing the roads. The river banks are also eroded there. Not only that, something is also required to prevent sea-erosion. A lot of landslides have occurred in Kerala which spoiled lot of crops and caused a lot of loss life. So, preventive measures must be taken by the Central Government and they should also give more aid to the State of Kerala. So, I humbly request the Central Government to do all that is possible in this regard. The Central Government should give 100 per cent grant to Kerala for this purpose.

I hope I have not taken much of your time. I once again congratulate the Minister Buta Singhji, who visited our area and was convinced as to what had happened in Kerala. So, I once again request him to give more aid to Kerala. Thank you.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for at last I got my chance.

(Interruptions)

Every year we have been discussing the calamity either on account of flood or drought or on account of cyclone. This year we are hearing about calamity on account of massive sea erosion especially in the coastal areas. This has not become a regionally confined problem. This has already assumed a national character starting from Assam to Kanyakumari, also from Andaman to Lakshadweep.

Kerala is the immediate victim in this year's flood. I think Kerala stands as the worst victim.

AN HON. MEMBER : Kerala is the first in flood.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Yes, in flood.

I must congratulate Mr. Karunakaran's Government in Kerala which has taken timely action. I think on account of that many more calamities and havocs at least have been averted and also, timely assistance from the Centre was rushed to Kerala.

As far as the financial position of Kerala is concerned, my esteemed colleague here, Prof Thomas, who initiated the debate followed by all other, have mentioned in detail. I do not want to repeat it as you have already mentioned about the brevity of our speech. So, what I want to impress upon the Government is that Kerala must get 100 per cent aid because their position, as I know from the very close quarters, is very bad. Sometimes they are not in a position even to pay the salaries to their staff. That is the position there. They have estimated the aid as Rs. 700 crores if I am correct, and the Central Government must come forward and liberally sanction the money as 100 per cent aid, that is, without expecting to get back the money from them.

Coming to my own constituency--I will be brief as you have already cautioned

me--an unprecedented sea erosion is taking place now. For the last two or three days I have been getting hundred of telegrams. My constituency is the smallest in the country having a land area of 32.2 square kilometres and taken with the economic zone it has spread out to half a million square kilometres and you know, it is the smallest inhabited island and its population is 27 crores. Many lands of coconut trees, fishing sheds and so many lands have been washed away. My misfortune is when Buta Singhji visited, with whom I have two decades of friendship, at that time...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : How can you be misfortunate ?

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : I was misfortunate because when he visited Kerala, this misfortune had not taken place in Lakshadweep.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (S. BUTA SINGH) : In his constituency, the calamity happened after my visit to Kerala.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : So far, I was not successful in taking him to Lakshadweep. Had he gone there, he would have been in a position to appreciate the condition very well. The condition is, the moment you forget about this, one by one, these islands will be disappeared. In this 27 acres of land, more than 200 people are staying. Due to the ferocious sea and the monsoon, ships cannot go every now and then. One ship gone there and had been written off. The condition is very serious. I would request the hon. Minister, who is my esteemed friend to send a team to assess the loss suffered by the islands due to the calamity. Fortunately, the people who are living in the interior area experts and there was no loss of life because of the tactics and the experience they have gained from ages. What I am impressing upon the Government is that this problem is there for the past decade. We should find a permanent solution for it.

For example, some years back, there was some problem to link the Northern rivers with the Southern rivers. Now,

Kerala is the worst affected State due to floods. As a Member from Tamil Nadu was telling a little while ago, Tamil Nadu and Karanataka are worst affected by drought. So, these things could be solved if we make an earnest effort by taking the water from the rivers of the North to the South. I was told that it was a scheme of Rs 10,000 crores. But if it is to materialise, all of us must make some contribution and we should tighten our budget so that we can have a better future.

Secondly, there must be a revolving fund as Mr. Jain has just now mentioned. We must study, for 10 years, how much amount has been spent in each State in the form of relief. Accordingly, there must be some percentage from each State and they should make a contribution to the revolving fund so that this permanent fund can immediately be used for the amelioration of all those persons and State affected by havocs.

I do not want to take much of your time. I would only, impress upon the Government that there must be a revolving fund and the proposal of linking the Northern rivers with the Southern rivers must be seriously taken note of.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If that happens, Karnataka will be washed away.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Karnataka is also facing water problem now.

[Translation]

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today discussion is going on in this House on natural calamities being faced in the entire country. India is definitely reeling under the natural calamities whether caused by floods in the Budhi gandak or by famine or floods in other rivers. I come from Bihar. North Bihar is affected by floods whereas South Bihar is affected by famine. My constituency Gopalganj is situated in North Bihar. West champaran and East champaran are the adjoining areas.

Before independence we had been hoping to get rid of these calamities after independence, but we have not been able to find out any lasting solution of these problems even after 38 years of independence. Every year half of the Bihar budget is spent on flood control measures, but no solution of these problems has been found so far. In 1970, the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi had formulated Peeprasi Pipra Dam Scheme to save particularly the people of Champaran and Uttar Pradesh from floods. Crores of rupees were spent on it. I was a Member of Bihar Vidhan Sabha at that time. I raised questions in this regard. The result is that its cost has increased to several hundred crores of rupees as against the original cost of few crores. Despite incurring huge expenditure, the floods wash away the dam.

On the one hand we are suffering from natural calamities, whereas on the other hand we are facing hardship at the hands of Government also. Thousands of homes have been washed away and heavy damage has been caused to crops by floods in the Ganga due to river erosion caused by the Burhi Gandak in Dighwa Divouli Block in Gopalganj. Many schools have also been washed away. When I met the local people there, they told me with tears in their eyes that on the one hand they have been severely affected by the erosion caused by the river and on the other hand the members of their families are arrested and put behind the bars. When I wanted to know the basic cause, I come to the conclusion after investigations that recovery of bank loan or revenue is effected there every year. Warrants have been issued against all the persons. On the one hand, the people have been affected by soil erosion and on the other hand they have been put into difficulty by Government. Their land is submerged under the water of Budhi Gandak. No officer has so far tried to find out for which land they have been recovering loan. They do not know whether the land in question exists or has been submerged under river waters.

West Champaran is located in Bihar from where Bapuji had launched his agitation. Siwan is also located there to which great personalities like Dr. Rajendra Prasad and

[Shri Kali Prasad Pandey]

Maulana Majoul Hak belonged. But today people there are reeling under the fury up soil erosion caused by Budhi Gandak, Ganga, Kosi, Bagmati and Ghaghra. No relief has so far been provided there by Government. I therefore, would like to request the Agriculture Minister to allocate funds immediately for this purpose and a Central Study Team may be sent there.

I have seen in Bihar that the flood control Department and Irrigation Department of Bihar Government are the two clous of corruption. In India the maximum number of engineers suspended belong to these two departments in Bihar. I talked to an engineer there and advised him not to misappropriate Government money for God's sake. He replied that if he had money, he would manage to come back again. I, therefore, request you that arrangements should be made to ensure that the funds earmarked for implementing flood control measures should be utilised properly. Government has not so far provided any relief in Gopalganj, West Champaran, Noutan Block of Burbi Gandak and Jadopur, Dighwa-Digholi, Kuchaikot blocks of Gopalganj in which thousands of villages have been washed away by floods. But no relief has been provided by the Government so far. The people of the area and myself have made an appeal to the Hon. Prime Minister to take measures to save the people of Dighwa-Digholi Block and West Champaran District. But no action was taken despite prior intimation about occurrence of flood there. Crores of rupees are being spent there after the floods actually occur. I would like to request Government to take some concrete steps at their own level to present the floods in time to solve the problem of floods in Bihar on permanent basis.

*SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, so far several honourable members have elaborately dealt with the devastating flood and draught situation in the country. Therefore, I would like to concentrate on the severe drought situation prevalent in the Karnataka State.

An unprecedented drought situation is prevailing in my State. Sowing work has not been done in 75 taluks out of 172 taluks of the State. Many taluks have not received even half an inch of rain in this year. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 29 crores for drought relief programmes in the State. But this amount is very meagre to be of real help. Now the State is facing scarcity of food, water and unemployment. The cattle do not have fodder and water. To avert starvation of people and decimation of cattle, some concrete steps have to be taken immediately.

Severe drought is afflicting the districts of Bangalore, Tumkur, Kolar, Bellary, Chikkamagalur Hassan, and Gulbarga. The farmers are sitting idle without jobs. Therefore, I urge the Hon'ble Minister Shri Buta Singhji to grant at least Rs. 200 crores to my State. As an immediate relief measure Rs. 50 crores may be sanctioned and the rest be sanctioned in the second stage.

Before coming over here to attend the Parliament session, I have toured throughout my constituency for fifteen days. I have seen the situation of the poor villagers and farmers. Therefore, the Centre should rush relief measures immediately. At the same time, I request our Central Government to set up a "Watch dog Committee" to look into the proper utilisation of the drought relief funds. Otherwise, I am afraid that the amount may be misused by the agents of the Karnataka State Government. The organisers pay only Rs. 200 and show Rs. 2000 on the record. Today our State Chief Minister has become "*Dena Soora Karna of Mahabharata*". He is spending money on non-plan schemes. Money is going to the pockets of several agents and it is not reaching the needy peasants. I regret to state that the Chief Minister of Karnataka has neglected the farmers. He is favouring the rich people. The officers sent by the Centre are also not functioning properly. Therefore, the Centre has to select a good team of officers to work in drought relief programmes.

The problems of floods and drought are perennial in our country. Therefore, I would like to suggest some permanent solutions. The proper utilisation of river

*The speech was originally deliver in Kannada.

water will enable the conversion of 40 lakh acres of dry land into irrigation land in my State. The waters of Krishna, Godavari, Cauvery and Tungabhadra rivers have to be properly utilised. Our State Chief Minister is not in favour of spending for irrigation. Karnataka was a prosperous and flourishing State. But now unfortunately has become the most backward State in the country. If the water of west flowing rivers is diverted eastward, at least 16 lakh acres of land will come under irrigation. Irrigation projects of Netravati river has to be given top priority. Upper Bhadra Project and Upper Tunga project have to be completed at the earliest. For the above projects, an outlay of Rs 10,000 crores is needed. This would be the permanent solution and it would enable the State to generate several hundreds of crores of rupees every year.

Once again I request the Central Government to release Rs. 50 crores as advance relief fund and I hope that our Hon'ble Minister would sanction a total amount of Rs. 200 crores to Karnataka State to face the crisis of severe drought situation.

[English]

SHRI G M BANATWALLA (Ponnani : I rise with a heavy heart to speak of the distress caused by the natural calamities in several parts of our country. Year after year this House has to discuss the havoc created by floods and other natural calamities. It is high time that greater stress is now laid upon preventive action. I must also emphasize that this need to stress upon preventive action brooks no further delay. The programmes for the control of floods should be given high priority.

Further it is also distressing to know that our Government does not have any machinery to assess the damage that has been caused in any particular State and its need for assistance. Such a machinery must be evolved so that succour is provided without any delay whatsoever. This delay in the provision of relief causes greater hardships and misery to our people also. Because of the paucity of time I restrict myself to the State of Kerala.

In Kerala the vigorous monsoon has led to unprecedented floods, landslides and sea erosion. Every sector of economy and every sphere of life in the State of Kerala has been adversely affected. We can have a rough idea of the extent of damage if we realise that nearly 52% of the population has been badly affected by these calamities. Now the need, therefore, is for the Centre to come in a big way to the help of Kerala, specially because Kerala is finding itself in difficulties with respect to the financial position also. Kerala finds it now extremely difficult, rather impossible, to raise further internal resources. So, on the one hand we have this difficulty of finance being faced by our State of Kerala and on the other hand, we have the unprecedented havoc - unprecedented since the last 60 years; since 1926 we have not heard of such a calamity as we are to-day facing in our State of Kerala. So this usual pattern of assistance of 75% by the Centre and 25% by the State under these circumstances cannot be made applicable to the State of Kerala, because otherwise the economy of Kerala will be wrecked. I must, therefore, emphasise and urge upon the Government with all the vehemence at my command that cent per cent grant should come to Kerala in order to save Kerala in these days of difficulties.

In the present calamities also in our nation, Kerala is the worst affected State. The total loss has been estimated at Rs. 743.63 crores and, therefore, I say that it is absolutely necessary that cent per cent grant should be extended by the Centre.

Sir, thanks and sincere thanks to the Centre for rushing an advance of Rs. 25 crores. The efforts of the Kerala Government are also very commendable. A massive campaign of relief and rehabilitation was launched by the Kerala Government under the able stewardship of the Chief Minister, Shri Karunakaran over there. Time does not permit to tell you how the Government left no stone unturned to reach the people in their misery and distress. 1.20 lakh people were to be provided with timely relief. It was a herculean task. All the various sectors of economy and social life have been affected. If you take housing 4.78 lakh houses have been damaged. In

[Shri G. M. Banatwalla]

many cases not only are the houses destroyed but the land has also been washed away so that nearly 1,20 lakh houses require relocation on new sites. Almost 98 per cent of the fishermen in the State have been very badly affected by this heavy monsoon. Port structures have been destroyed and the cost of repair to port structures is estimated at Rs. 2.19 crores. Several port structures have been affected in the district of Mallappuram. Damage to Ponnani port is estimated at Rs. 12 lakhs because of heavy siltation and Rs. 5 lakhs due to damage to wharf and buildings. Extensive damage has occurred to roads.

Sir, an important point as far as Kerala is concerned is sea erosion. Coast-line of Kerala is very vulnerable. Hence the importance of construction of sea walls. But, Sir, sufficient funds are not available and where there are no sea walls the damage has been so heavy that all trees, buildings and lands have been washed away as a result of those sea erosions. Construction of sea wall has to be accelerated. Additional funds are also required for the purpose and additional funds to the extent of Rs. 27 crores are wanted in nine districts. In Mallappuram district alone Rs. 45 crores are needed for this particular project.

Another important point there is that when every sector of economy has been affected to provide livelihood to those persons who are badly affected. In other words we need employment generation programmes. A lot of funds, therefore, are needed for this particular purpose in order to provide livelihood to these people.

Sir, I conclude by saying finally that when you sanction the amount, the approved amount and the released amount at times do not agree. For example, in Kerala itself in the year 1982-83, the approved amount in case of drought over there by the Central Government was Rs. 4.10 crores and the amount that was released was hardly Rs. 2.0 crores. Again in 1983-84 the amount approved for Central assistance was Rs. 42.46 crores and the amount released was Rs. 38.35 crores. So, while cent per cent grant has to be approved, it is also

to be released and I hope, therefore, that the Central assistance for Kerala will not be wanting in any respect.

[Translation]

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all let me thank the Hon. Speaker for allowing a discussion lasting over almost 4 hours on natural calamities. Many of my friends from Kerala have spoken at length on the floods and devastation it caused in Kerala. So I do not want to go into any further detail. I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to our beloved Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for the timely help he has given to Kerala in its hour of distress. As soon as the floods occur he released Rs. 25 crores for relief and rehabilitation. He also sent the Hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri Buta Singh and the Planning Minister Shri K.R. Narayanan to Kerala in order to make on the spot study of the damage caused by floods. Later a central team was sent and that team is about to submit its report. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture has seen for himself the extent of devastation caused by natural calamities in Kerala. Therefore, I do not want to narrate all that has happened.

However, I would bring just one or two points to the notice of the House. During the last 30 years Kerala has not faced floods of such devastating impact. Out of 1416 villages in Kerala as many as 900 villages have been affected. 146 lakh people have been seriously effected. They constitute almost 52% of the total population of Kerala. 7400 people have been injured and about 4.8 lakh houses have been destroyed.

Damage to cash crops has been very severe.

145761 hectares of agricultural land has come under the impact of floods. Most of these cash crops take a number of years before they start giving yield. So destruction of these crops means that the loss will be suffered over a long period of time. The

*The Speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.

loss is not only of farmers but of the exchequer also as most of these cash crops such as rubber, cardamom, coconut etc. earn us valuable foreign exchange. In this context I would request the Government to come to help of farmers by giving seeds fertilizer and other necessary things free of charge. Similarly, there should be a moratorium on the repayment of loans.

The fishermen of Kerala are the worst affected as they live along the sea coast. Their huts are at once washed away when sea erosion takes place because these are situated very near the sea coast. Even at the best of times they find it difficult to make both ends meet. Their misery is inexplicable. I want the Government to give more serious attention to their problems. The Govt. must formulate a scheme for providing them houses a little away from the sea coast and the expenses should be fully met by the Centre.

Sir, every year sea erosion occurs in Kerala. Although there is a scheme to construct sea wall it has not made much progress. Sea erosion poses a great danger to the land as chunks of land is eaten away by the sea every year. I would request the Govt. to regard sea erosion as a national menace. A long term plan should be prepared to prevent sea erosion and it should be a part of the central plan. A necessary provision for this should be made in the annual budget of the Centre.

Another problem is with regard to repairs and reconstruction of roads. 6300 K.Ms. of roads have been damaged in the recent floods. Most of the roads in Kerala come under water during the monsoon. Therefore, some special steps should be taken to strengthen the surface of roads so as to resist the impact of flood water. A long term scheme has to be prepared and implemented in this regard.

Finally, I would add my voice to the demands made by my friends from Kerala that the Centre should give cent per cent grant to the State of Kerala for meeting the calamities. The Govt. of Kerala has put forward a demand for Rs. 743.36 crores as cent per cent non-plan grant. I request the Central Govt. to accede to the request of Govt. of Kerala.

Before I conclude I must say a word of praise for the magnificent work done by the Kerala Government under the able stewardship of the Chief Minister Shri K. Karnakaran. Relief has been provided to all the affected people within the shortest possible time. The Govt. of Kerala has thus done a commendable job. When relief is provided to the people who are in distress, some of our friends in the opposition have chosen to criticise it and try to see politics in it. I can only say that they can see only politics even in the misery of people. I do not want to say anything more than that. Once again I thank the Speaker for allowing this discussion and I conclude.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the national level, the north faces floods and the south is hit by the droughts. There being no coordination for the solution of this problem, in every session we discuss the natural calamities in the House. Many areas of Maharashtra and Kerala were inundated by the floods whereas there is drought in many parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Drinking water is not available there, fodder for the cattle is not available. With a view to overcoming this problem, a suggestion of linking the north and south rivers was mooted by Shri K. L. Rao.

In the absence of ground water, no grass grows due to which the cattle perish whereas the people are dying due to floods. An Hon. Member has said just now that the floods are followed by diseases. Some people are dying of stomach ache and some of starvation. We shall have to formulate a plan to effect coordination in this regard. That plan is to link the Ganga and Kaveri. During the time of floods, the excess water should be checked from entering the fields and instead be stored by constructing reservoirs. Besides, we have to face the floods and droughts in the wake of inadequate aid from the Centre. Today, whatever aid we are getting from the Centre is in the form of plan advance. No other assistance is being given. Therefore, my suggestion is that money should be raised by creating a revolving fund, so that assistance can be provided to the States in the event of flood or

[Shri C. Janga Reddy]

drought. In my view, such assistance should not be in the form of plan advance. Drought-resistant seeds should be developed for the areas which receive insufficient rains.

Such seeds should be developed in the Agricultural Research Institute. Agricultural production must be raised by carrying out such a research. Similarly, research should be conducted for saving paddy crop in the area which receive excessive rains or are flood-prone so that the crop does not rot in the event of water-logging for 5 to 10 days.

The Centre assessed an amount of Rs. 369 crores as Central assistance to Andhra Pradesh in 1982-83, but only Rs. 54 crores were given that too in the form of plan advance and not as grant. I do not know what is the hitch in it. As stated by our colleagues from Kerala and Karnataka you are giving plan advance and not assistance. You are giving 20 or 25 per cent as assistance and 75 per cent as plan advance.

In Andhra Pradesh, drought relief works are undertaken where plan works are going on. In the areas which receive excessive rains, plan work is taken up, but these funds cannot be used in drought affected areas to generate employment. Apparently, the plan works are taken up where there is excessive water, but how the works can be taken up where there is no water. You should change this policy.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh had sought assistance of Rs. 342 crores in 1984-85, but you provided only 50 per cent of it. I do not know why it happens? Why such a drastic cut? Why do you hesitate in sanctioning funds? How the State Government can manage in such a situation? My friend has just now told that the funds that were allocated did not reach the people. The same has been said about Bihar. This position should be changed. The Ganga and Kaveri should be linked. Revolving Fund should be created. If you do all these things, you can have permanent solution to this problem.

(English)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : We are discussing here today regarding the natural calamities. Much of the discussion is devoted to the situation arising out of floods in different parts of the country very recently. Even now, large areas in some provinces of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam are under flood waters. But natural calamities do not relate to flood only. There are natural calamities like drought, cyclone, tornado and other such situations.

Orissa, which I represent, is a homeland of natural calamities. That unfortunate State is frequently visited by all these calamities—cyclones, flood, drought—and sometimes all of them in the same year also.

Sir, as you know, poverty exists with natural calamities. They are very good friends intimate friends. Therefore the percentage of people living below poverty line in Orissa is the highest in the whole of the country. And as such poverty influenced the Father of the Nation. The entrenched poverty of Orissa, Gandhiji during his visit to Orissa was moved, was touched by such poverty and he decided to give up his usual long dress and resort to short cloth covering up to his knees with a chadar in the upper portion of the body. Shri Utkalmanigopalbandhu Dassji, a distinguished son of Orissa, a Mahatma of Orissa, dedicated his entire life to ameliorate the sufferings of the flood victims of Orissa. He was earlier wearing such a dress and that influenced the Father of the Nation, Gandhiji also to follow him in the context of Orissa's poverty.

Sir, I will now give some evidence how that State is presently suffering due to natural calamities. Orissa has a total number of 314 community development blocks. Out of them as many as 201 blocks covering 14025 villages in different districts of Orissa are in the grip of severe drought. Sir, this discussion is important for us because we are discussing today in Parliament on natural calamities, on the eve of our beloved Prime

Minister's visit to Orissa's drought affected areas. Our Prime Minister will be visiting drought prone areas of Kalahandi, Sambalpur and Phulbani adivasi inhabited areas tomorrow and the day after. In this background, Sir, I would also like to submit that tornado seldom visits different parts of the country. But this year the very tornado affected several areas of our State during fort night in quite disturbing. We are accustomed to cyclone. In Orissa, we are accustomed to live with natural calamities, in the midst of natural calamities. That is why that State is the poorest State today in the country.

As I said a little earlier, the largest percentage of people living below the poverty line are in that State. I may point out here that there is no warning arrangement for tornado, whereas for cyclone, there are some arrangements to warn the people before it occurs. But tornado surprisingly and mysteriously had visited four or five districts - Sambalpur, Cuttack, Keonjhar, Balasore where large areas were affected. We knew tornado affects locally small areas only, and it devastates life and property. When I was Minister in charge of the Revenue in the Orissa Government, I had seen myself a boat which was there in a tank with water, that boat was blown up and rested on the top of a tree. Such was the speed of the tornado. The buildings are uprooted completely. Thousands of acres of land were affected and standing crops of over thousands of acres which the cultivators grew with lot of labour and lot of money spent on fertilizers were totally devastated.

They got nil out of them, this time. This is the rice bowl of Orissa. But, Sir, to our utter surprise it is a misfortune that there is no provision even for conversion of cooperative loan from short terms to medium terms. Without such facility naturally the cultivators are very much upset.

The Reserve Bank says 'No' to a proposal for such a conversion. I would appeal to the Hon. Minister kindly to look into this personally. Otherwise, Prospects of a crop in this rice bowl of Orissa will again be seriously affected during this Khariff season

I will now give some suggestions about the Famine Code of natural calamity. This problem has two aspects, one of which is preventive. Secondly, inspite of all our efforts, whenever natural calamities visit some areas, how are we to face the situation, and provide relief to the affected people without loss of time? Naturally, whatever is provided by way of relief is just a token sympathy. We cannot really compensate the loss. According to the provisions of the Famine code, this relief operation is conducted. This Famine Code is time-barred and out-dated. It is in force since British days, without much amendment. I request the Minister of Agriculture to take a meeting as quickly as possible, with the Revenue Ministers of all the States who deal with relief operations. Necessary, timely amendments should be suggested. A new Relief Code should instead be formulated to be in force all over the country. The Minister should coordinate with different States. Before the onset of monsoons, natural calamity meetings are held at district and State level. I would suggest that our Union Minister also should convene once every year meetings of the Revenue Ministers to discuss all these things.

Now about relief amounts given. In Orissa, when a house is completely devastated, uprooted, is extinct and there is no trace of it, do you know what is the amount offered by the Government? It is Rs. 500/-. In respect of partially damaged houses which are many, and where poor people are involved, the amount given varies from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 100/-. These days, with a relief amount of Rs 100/-, what sort of construction can a person have, a person who has lost a house?

Cooperative loans should also be converted from short term into medium term loans. The Reserve Bank should have no hesitation, it should not be conservative in allowing conversions. After all, they are not writing off the loans. It is a question of giving them some time only to repay the loans, so that a crop is grown, and they pay the amounts without interest, within 1 or 2 years. This is the minimum that should be done.

[Shri Sriballav Panigrihi]

Now about drinking water. It is also a problem in thousands of villages in Orissa. As I said earlier, India is a vast country. It is like a mini-world. Naturally, different parts are quite likely to be affected by natural calamities. When we do not have drinking water in some areas on some States in India, face severe flood situation in some other parts. This is the beauty or peculiarity of this country. So, we should have an integrated approach, an approach of taming the rivers, of having reservoirs and thus controlling floods. We should instead provide water to the cultivators to grow crops-water which will provide irrigation.

Now about cyclones: we can go in for a massive tree plantation programme which will minimize the effect of cyclones. Cyclone and tornado cannot be eradicated. But the causes can be studied i.e. why tornado is so often visiting some parts of the country, and what can be done there need to be studied. We should also try to prevent or at least minimize the effect of cyclones. Similarly, more emphasis can be given to the integrated programme of flood control and provision of irrigation, which will prevent the recurrence of drought.

I would now close with a request to the Hon. Minister to have a pragmatic approach, and not leave things to the States on the plea that it is a State subject. The time has come now come which calls for a radical and practical approach. We disperse here after making speeches. But what is the result? We only get psychological satisfaction some times.

19.00 hrs.

The grant of Rs. 25 crores, Kerala friend was saying, had been paid to Kerala Government to disburse by way of relief or loan to the affected people. But I understand that this is regulated according to the recommendations of the Finance Commission. Marginal money is there. If marginal money allotted for every State is exhausted and they cannot meet the expenditure without central assistance, then they make a request and the central team visit. What does the Centre do? The Centre gives some loan

assistance only on the recommendations of the Central Plan, some advance to be adjusted subsequently. So, for a State like Orissa, which is so much natural calamities prone, which is poor, cannot prosper with this kind of arrangement; it can prosper only if 100 per cent grant is given. If you allow this arrangement to continue, then such States in future are bound to remain poor and that will not help the country to grow uniformly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as you know, already we have extended the time of this discussion by one hour. Now that time is over. So, is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this discussion by one more hour so that we can accommodate all the members who are on the list and who want to speak on this subject?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I just wish to inform the House that there are still many members on the list to speak. We have arranged for a dinner at 8.40 P.M. in room no. 70 because the matter relates to States' floods and other things. So, naturally, the members are interested in speaking. So, the Minister will start replying at 8 O'clock.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : All right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So, we have extended the time of the discussion by one more hour or till is over.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : We don't want dinner; we want that the Minister should start replying now so that we can go home early.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The Minister can reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The number of members who want to speak is more. There are 10 speakers. Every member wants to take 10 minutes, 15 minutes and so on. So, it is not possible to finish it earlier. Then we cannot postpone the reply of the Minister also. Yesterday, we had postponed one item. Every day we cannot

go on postponing like this because the Minister cannot reply afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on this subject on behalf of Rajasthan—a State having an area of 3,42,000 square kilometres. I want to say that this Government and Shri Buta Singh may kindly hold an enquiry to find out how much money has been spent on famine. You get it enquired into at all places to see where this money goes. They have converted it into a very good source. The Chief Minister strengthens his position in his constituency through it, a Minister also spend these funds in his constituency. What is this method of doing work ? First, a Central Study Team goes to the State. When we say here that there is drought in our area, you send Central Study Team. The Central Study Team submits its report after passing 15 to 30 days' time in Government Rest Houses eating good food. Who makes the study ? What I want to know is whether any State Government representative, any Secretary ? any Revenue officer is associated with the preparation of the report ? That report is submitted to a high level body. That high level body does not bother to ask what happened in Kerala. That committee goes into that report and gives its approval in a month's time. A representative of the State Government, either Chief Secretary Revenue Secretary should be associated with the Central Study Team when it goes to the State for assessment. He should be a Member of that team. He should know what report has been submitted by the Study Team. When the high level committee studies the case of Kerala, an M. P. from Kerala or a representative of Finance and Agriculture Department is associated with it. After the study is over no State representative has a right to see this report.

[English]

Nor can they ask comments on that report.

[Translation]

I want to draw the attention of Hon. Shri Buta Singh that the State Government have the right to see the report of the Study Team. A Commission which is set up after a drought or flood at any place comprises three or four persons. They simply say that so much amount has been sanctioned as grant. Those who are smart, shake hands beforehand. I also want to tell how the funds are spent. It is specifically said that this is the constituency of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, 18 rigs will be installed here. One rig shall be installed in the Constituency of Daga. Some people cover grind their own axes in the name of famine relief. Therefore, kindly order an enquiry into it so as to ascertain where the money goes. Our head hangs in shame on the exposures of D. D. A. Hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent in the country in the name of famine. No durable assets have been created. Buildings or roads have not been constructed. Earth work was done on the roads and that was washed away by the rains. I want to challenge that no durable assets could be created inspite of spending crores of rupees. Kosi barrage has not been completed even during the last 20 years. Rajasthan Canal which was sheduled to be completed in 1960, is still incomplete. Shri Govind Vallabh Pant had laid its foundation Stone. The Members from Kerala vociferously demand 100 per cent grant instead of 75 per cent, because the newspapers will Carry the name of Shri Kurup saying that he had raised this demand. Will you please let me know whether any enquiry has been ordered into the spending of funds sanctioned for famine and flood, if so, that report should be discussed here in the House.

[English]

Whether this Parliament has ever discussed a report as to what has been achieved after spending the money.

[Translation]

We have spent crores of rupees on this work till today. Will the Hon. Minister

give assurance on the floor of this House that he will order an enquiry into the spending of funds on famine and drought, on constructing barrages during this year. The inquiry will reveal that big engineers have constructed their bungalows, the big Ministers have pocketed the money and that the funds have been misused. What purpose is going to be served by ringing the bell...I do not have time, otherwise, I can give you figures in detail.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Daga, the whole night is at your disposal.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It will be darkness around if the darkness of Corruption continues to spread like this and then the people will write in the history that there were the M. Ps. during whose tenure such and such corrupt practices were indulged into. Our names will also be included in the history. We too shall not be spared.

Now, I want to mention a few points about Rajasthan Thirty-Three Thousand villages face the danger of famine this year itself.

[English]

There is a news item which says :

“Rs. 24 Cr. Loss

The move for the probe was spear-headed by the Congress (I) Member, Mr. C. P. Joshi, who alleged that the ‘scandal’ had caused a loss of Rs. 24 crores to the State Exchequer. He had alleged that the contract for digging wells had been awarded to contractors at the rate of Rs. 240 per cubic metre against the prevailing market rate of Rs. 140 per cubic metre

The Contract for the construction of cement platforms, he alleged, had been awarded at the rate of Rs. 1250 per pump, whereas the ruling rate was only Rs. 350.”

[Translation]

Thus, the exchequer suffered a loss of Rs. 24 crores. You have worked in the

Army Mr. Colonel. Enter this field also because, this is also a big battle field. This is also a scandal.

You take the example of Madhya Pradesh. When I say it is a scandal, you will not agree. But I want to say that an inquiry should be conducted to find out what are the works on which the funds sanctioned by the Central Government for natural calamities were spent. No such inquiry is conducted by Government. Our Famine Minister or Agriculture Minister does have the information before the floods or drought actually strike. Excuse me, I do not blame you, whosoever in the Famine Minister or Agriculture Minister of the country has a duty to pay on the spot visits to see things for himself, not at the time when we seek assistance, but at the time when relief work is going on and he should see whether work is actually going on or not. Kindly spare some time for it and see, not by sitting in Delhi or through an aerial survey, but by visiting the actual sites, what type of work is going on, how it is going on and who is doing it? High power Commissions and other tall talks are only procedural matters. I only want two things that you lay your report on the Table of the House. Tell this august House that we have spent this much money in Kerala on such and such works. Thereafter, the Members belonging to Kerala will discuss here in the House and will see to it whether the funds have been spent properly or not. Some Hon. Members have also suggested here to evolve a famine code. But, this concept of evolving a famine code is nothing new, the debate on this has been going on for a long time. Still, no famine Code has so far been evolved. Famine is still persisting in many part of the country and so far as Rajasthan is concerned, you can see yourself how much funds have been sanctioned in spite of severe drought conditions prevailing there. Whether it is flood or drought, you consider both as natural calamities, but you sanction 75 per cent for flood and only 50 per cent for drought. This is a strange logic which you apply in the event of natural calamities. We do not have a drop of water and are suffering heavily and you say that you will get Rs. 50/- out of 100/- because we have com-

mitted a crime whereas in the case of floods you sanction 75 per cent.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ours is a very vast country and we experience different sorts of climates in different parts of the country. If in one part of the country there is a flood, in another part of the country there may be drought. And the cycle we have experienced in our own life time makes it imperative for the Central Government that it must be wide awake and all the time prepared to face these calamities. Although we wish and pray that there are no floods, there are no droughts, and we forge ahead to a very prosperous India.

To my mind, the crux of the problem is that we must assess the damage to the land and then after assessing the damage we must ensure distribution of relief properly. So, far as the assessment of the damage is concerned, I want to bring it to the notice of the Agriculture Minister who is fortunately very energetic and he has made notes, also- and I hope he will take notice of what we say. Now, how is this damage assessed? After lot of noise through the media- and it depends on how a State can cry- at long last a Central team will visit a particular State, and as and when that team visits that State, it straightaway goes to the Secretariat and has some sessions of long chats with the bureaucrats. Now Mr. Daga has brought to our notice that in Rajasthan even the constituencies are picked up or they want to know as to who is the person who represents a particular constituency, and naturally more aid will go to the more important person's constituency. But in my State...

(Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : It is not correct that when the Central Team visited Kerala, they did not visit all the affected areas. You ask Mr. Thampan Thomas whether they visited his constituency, you ask Mr. Kurup, nearby, whether they visited his constituency.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I am not discussing Kerala. You take the seat please. Mr. Daga was discussing Rajasthan. I am discussing Jammu and Kashmir State.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Are you not interested in Kerala?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I am interested in every part of the country but I have to particularise how a team visits...

(Interruptions)

I am interested in Kerala but I am now discussing Jammu and Kashmir State.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Sir, he is making an allegation, that is why I have said it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Who is making an allegation?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : He has said that the Central team is only visiting certain places where important M. P.s are there.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Did you hear Mr. Daga what he was talking about that there is a lot of corruption? There is a lot of mess in this country...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Minister will himself give a reply to what he has said.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, as far as my State is concerned, this is my personal experience and I was one with Mr. Daga when he was speaking before me—that the drama of Jammu and Kashmir is not different from Rajasthan. But in my State the team came after I had sent seven telegrams to the Ministry of Agriculture, when Rao Birendra Singh was holding the portfolio here, that there was hailstorm incessant rain and early snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir State, along with Himachal Pradesh. And when the team comes, it does not move outside the Secretariat, it

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

does not invite M.Ps. After all we are representatives of the people. I did not get any invitation from them. When I came to know that the team had visited Srinagar, I went to the Chief Secretary. I was told that the team had come and it had gone back to Delhi. Hell with that team. I represent seven lakhs of people and I was not given any opportunity to explain the position there, particularly when I had sent seven telegrams to the Centre. Sardar Sahib can just check up the records and see whether I had sent seven telegrams or not.

When the Central team goes to the State capital, it has to move to the site where a calamity has taken place. Such a team probably consists only of bureaucrats. I do not suppose any Minister or any public man goes with the team. Only bureaucrats at the lower level go. They get certain graphs and on the basis of them they assess the damage in a room and decide about the extent of central relief. That happened in Jammu and Kashmir State. This team went only in 1984. It did not visit the State in 1982 and 1983. The Hon. Minister will kindly take notice of this fact that in 1982 and 1983 the whole region from Himachal Pradesh to Jammu and Kashmir suffered in the months of September, October and November continuously through hail storms, incessant rains and early snowfall. Whereas Himachal Pradesh got Rs. 5.96 crores for that year, Jammu and Kashmir State did not get anything. It is not just to suggest that Himachal Pradesh should not have received any relief. It suffered natural calamities and it got relief. It is very good. But why should not the Jammu and Kashmir State get even six pennies during that year? I can produce records and the Hon. Minister's Office knows about the conditions in Jammu and Kashmir that existed during that period. I have raised this issue a number of times. Even the Finance Minister had to intervene and I was told that that State had not raised this matter with the Central Government.

[Translation]

I was told in Urdu that the details have not been received.

[English]

One friend from here who happened to be Revenue Minister in Orissa, just now said, we cannot leave it to the State Government altogether. May be the State Government is sluggish. Ultimately, the Minister has to work on a desk and he has to be assisted by bureaucrats. If the bureaucrat does not work, the Ministry will not work and the people will suffer. Our people have been raising this issue. This point has been agitated upon in our Press also that while the Himachal Pradesh could get Rs. 6/- crores, why should not Jammu and Kashmir get anything during that year?

Now I come to the distribution part. I am particularising this issue in order that the Hon. Agriculture Minister takes notice of what is happening in the State. Some relief was granted in 1984 and in 1985 also, but there was a lot of *Ghapla*. I do not know how to translate it into English.

S. BUTA SINGH : *Ghapla* is *Ghapla*. There is no translation.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Here I would like to emphasise that you cannot leave the distribution part to the State Government. Because you are giving money you have to watch that this money goes to the victims. What I want to say is that this money does not go to the victims. * is the Constituency of the present * of the Jammu and Kashmir State. It is a shameful state of affairs that they distributed foodgrains to their supporters in that constituency, but the people of Dangiacha and adjoining villages did not receive anything. They complained about this to the Deputy Commissioner of Baramula. Already we have sent a communication to the Home Minister of India and our Governor is in full knowledge of this activity. The Minister told the people of Dangiacha, you voted

*Not recorded.

for Farooq, you go to him for relief. Since you did not vote for the * you would not get anything. When I raise this issue in the Parliament today I am seriously telling you that the scene in Jammu and Kashmir is very bad. Corruption is rampant and our State has touched a new height in this matter. Even the Congress people now say that the G.M. Shah Government is a † Government. It is a † Government.

Corruption is an all-pervading phenomenon in Jammu and Kashmir State.

In Jammu and Kashmir State, whatever relief you sanction, does not go to the victims. That is the point which I am making. If the Hon. Minister takes the trouble of visiting Srinagar, I will give him documentary evidence. It will show this. Whatever relief was sanctioned in the name of hailstorm has not gone to the real victims. It has gone to buttress or support *

I request the Hon. Minister again to send a Central Team to visit that State. They should invite all the MLAs and MPs belonging to various parties to participate in the discussions with the visiting team. Unless the Hon. Minister does this, we will not be satisfied.

[Translation]

I would like to request that a team should again visit the State. The team should invite MLAs of the State, belonging to the Congress, the National Conference and various parties.

[English]

Wherever the team goes, at least the MPs. must be invited to meet that team. What happens is this. A team comes to Srinagar or any other State capital. It goes back to Delhi, without meeting people's representatives. I hope that the Hon. Minister will organise a fresh team to visit the Jammu and Kashmir State to assess the

damage and the then sanction adequate relief. With these words I conclude.

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasaragod) : Sir, the case of Kerala was argued very well by my friends from Kerala. I don't want to repeat the same points. But I will give you some facts.

My Hon. friend sitting there has pointed out about the loss due to natural calamities. These natural calamities in Kerala can be converted into national assets. Out of all the 44 rivers and number of streams in Kerala, only 2 per cent of the water is utilised. The rest of the water is going into the sea. The rest 98 per cent is wasted without any utilisation at all. So, it can be converted into a national asset by some research work.

Sir, the bed of the river in Kerala has risen out of silt deposit which is mainly due to soil erosion, and landslide. This soil erosion and landslide is due to deforestation. This is the phenomenon which we are facing.

About Roads, I wish to point out that we have about 70,000 KMs. of village roads and 18,000 KMs. of PWD roads which are all damaged by the recent floods. In this connection I wish to suggest that while undertaking programmes under NREP and RLEGP, the climatic conditions of each State must be considered. According to the RLEGP the roads will be formed and black-topped or tar-topped at a stretch. Now, these roads are vanishing in Kerala because these roads have to be allowed to settle down and set in for a year at least, and proper drainage must be provided in order to prevent the destruction of the roads.

About fisheries, I must give some suggestions. Out of the total coastline in the whole of India 10 per cent of the coastline is in Kerala, i.e., about 590 Kilometres. But 40 per cent of the fisheries export is from Kerala. In that respect the Kerala coastline itself should be considered properly. About 1.25 lakhs of people are fishermen in our State and many more people depend on fisheries.

Out of this 590 Kilometres of coastline, 320 Kilometres are subject to sea erosion. This coastline is thickly populated and

*Not recorded.

†Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri I. Rama Rai]

national highways and railways are quite vulnerable in some points. There is every danger even for railway lines in Kerala State if we do not take measures to prevent sea erosion in our State. Most of the important towns in the coastline and 9 district headquarters are coastline cities which are all in danger. Only 90 Kilometres of the coastline is protected according to the reports. The rest of the coastline is not protected. Nearly one Kilometre protection requires Rs. 30 lakhs. You can imagine how big an amount is required to protect the entire coastline.

Sir, I want to wind up soon. In Holland, among the Dutch people there is a common saying; 'God made all the lands, but Dutch made Holland'. It is true that the Dutch over centuries built up their land by skilled reclamation. But we, in Kerala, are losing land year after year. There is a place near Cochin where miles of coastline is washed away. Nearly two hundred Kilometres of coastline was simply washed away in 25 years. We in Kerala want the Centre to help us. Of course, they have rendered timely help. For this we thank the Central Government and specially the Minister, B. J. Singhji, who has visited the area and who has consoled the flood victims.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the magnitude of the tragedy that affected Kerala has already been described by my colleagues. So, I am not going into any description and I shall confine myself to points.

The sorry State of Kerala is there. It is the third successive year where our State is affected by a natural calamity. Two years back there was an unprecedented drought which took away cash crops worth about Rs. 1000 crores.

Regarding this monsoon flood, this year it was unprecedented. But every year we have to face these monsoon floods and two or three peculiar features of these floods are already mentioned here. They are, that the paddy field, especially in Central Travancore, that is, Kuttanad area, which is the rice bowl of Kerala, goes under water; secondly the landslides in high ranges, in Vyanad and

Idukki districts and lastly sea erosion—these are the three main features of the monsoon floods in Kerala. And regarding Kuttanad, almost everything has been sanctioned and major portion of the paddy field in Kuttanad is made from the backwaters, i.e., huge bunds are created in the backwater and the water is pumped out of them. In this way, major portion of the paddy fields is created and when these monsoon floods come, cracks occur in the bunds and in this year this was an unprecedented thing and almost everywhere cracks occurred in the bund and paddy field are completely submerged in water. The Hon. Minister knows it, he personally came over there.

My request is that the Hon. Minister should take a personal interest in this sorry predicament of Kuttanad area. A high powered scientific committee should be appointed to study about this flood situation in Kuttanad. Some voluntary scientific organisation has made some study. For example, this Shashtra Sahitya Parishad of Kerala and People's Science Forum have done some study. The Central Government should also take an interest and appoint a high powered scientific committee.

Second thing is about the land slide. Many Hon. Members who spoke from the other side very cleverly did not mention why this land slide occurs. I appreciate the Hon. Minister for Planning who came over to Kerala to personally visit the Idukki district. At that time he publicly said, this is because of large scale tree felling. Ecologists and scientists have been repeatedly warning that if this type of felling continued in Vyanad and Idukki districts, large scale land slide will be the result in all these areas. But the Government of Kerala has been keeping a blind eye. So, my second request is that the Central Government should intervene in this sorry state of affairs in Kerala. A large scale deforestation is taking place there. The example of Himalayas is before us. I am not going into the detail. This is the main reason why this land slide occurs in Vyanad and Idukki districts.

I come to sea erosion. My only request is all those statistics have been mentioned here. As far as my understanding goes, till two years back.....

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : May I interrupt for a moment ? The Government of Kerala is not allowing even to cut a single tree. This is the present position. But you are talking about the affairs two years back.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I am not going into the detail. Every child in Kerala knows what is happening in the high ranges.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : It is not correct to say that the present Government is allowing falling of trees. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Let the Central Government institute an enquiry committee about this deforestation in Kerala.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Let them find out how many trees have been cut by your Party and how many by the other Party.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Everybody knows which Parties are behind it. I am not going to mention the name because the time is limited. Let the Government institute an enquiry commission to go into it.

About the sea erosion, as far as my understanding goes, till two years back, the Central Government used to give 3/4ths of the cost incurred by the State Government for preventing the sea erosion. Now, that portion is cut and it is made half of the cost that is incurred. My humble request is that the former position should be restored.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dhulia and Nasik district of our Maharashtra State have been hit by drought. There is no fodder in tribal districts. Drinking water is also scarce. There areas have received rain on 16th July last. Irrigation facilities in Maharashtra, including Dhulia district, are available only in 2.5 per cent area. Irrigation facilities in

our Dhulia district are utterly inadequate. Construction of big dams is a must for the extension of irrigation facilities. Rain water in our rivers and riverlets flows down and goes waste and the people face drought.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to sanction the irrigation project in Dhulia district, such as Upper Tapti Project Rs. 303 crore project- which will provide irrigation facilities to Dhulia and Jalgaon districts.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI BALKAVI BALRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak at the close of the discussion. The House is going to call it a day. I have only to add two-three sentences to the debate which has been going on in the House for about quarter to four hours, as almost every thing has already been said.

Every word of National Anthem which Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore gave us is feeling hurt today, it is writhing in pain. Our Hon. Agriculture Minister is taking down notes and, therefore, I want to confine myself to two or three points. Nature has become more ferocious towards man today than the man was towards nature earlier. We are suffering the curse of indiscriminate denudation of forest in Asia and Africa forth last 25 to 30 years. The seasons in India have changed, each season has shifted by 40 to 45 days from its course. We face floods and drought every year. We think, we are ruling the country, the people are ruling the country, but if we go by the official figures, natural Calamities are reigning supreme on 40 per cent of the country every year. Whether it is flood or drought, 40 per cent people of the country are in the grip of natural calamities. We just now have listened to the speeches of the Hon. Members right from Kerala to Kashmir and from Kutch to Kamakhya and it is evident from their speeches that 40 per cent people are reeling under natural Calamities.

Colonel Mushran is sitting here. 200 villages of his Jabalpur district are in the

[Shri Balkavi Bairagi]

grip of drought. Two thousand villages are facing drought so far as my constituency mandsaaur-Javra is concerned.

PROF. K. K. TEWARI (Buxar) : The same is the situation in Bihar.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : This is the situation everywhere, but I do not want to be a spokesman of all. The first thing which I want to say is that before we pass on the burden of this calamity to any Government, we should entrust this programme to our experts, scientists or those who are prepared to grapple with the problem with foresight. The scientists should reach there before we reach and the problem should be properly solved.

The second important thing is that a permanent fund of Rs. 2,000 crores should be created which may be spent on the solution of this problem in a planned way. One thing I specifically want to say to Shri Buta Singh. Although, the matter is out of your purview, but I want you to convey this request of mine to the Prime Minister. When natural Calamity is reigning over 40 per cent of the Country, an independent Ministry or Department for this purpose should be created so that a war can be waged against it in a coordinated manner.

Another thing which I want to say is that this natural Calamity is creating a new problem in the country. There is a custom among a tribe of adivasis in the areas of Rajasthan which have no rains. As the custom goes, if there are no rains, they have a belief that the traders and the business community have put the clouds under lock and key in their safes. The newspaper bear testimony to it that in Rajasthan our adivasi brothers in thousands went berrerk with spears in their hands in the bazaars of Udaipur and Jaipur in a bid to secure release of clouds from the safes. Shri Bhuria is sitting here. Similar rage was witnessed in Jhabua also. I am mentioning it because such things happen there, this thing has happened this time also. I come from Madhya Pradesh but my district borders with Rajasthan. They try to secure release of clouds from the safes.

In such a situation, I would say that you pay attention to these there things which I have just now mentioned.

In the end, I want to say that Shri Buta Singh has been very kind to pay a visit to Kerala- a fact acknowledged by each Member from that State. I would like to submit to Shri Buta Singh that instead of visiting a place after a calamity has struck, it would be better if he visits our area before the Calamity strikes. We want to invite you. You pay a visit to our area.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : A heavy rain will come if he comes there as his visit to Kerala has made everything flooded.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I want to submit to him that I have gone on record in the newspapers to say that of course he is Sardar Buta Singh, but for us he has become Sant Buta Singh now a days. So, just possible that with your sacred feet touching our land, its famine and epidemic may vanish.

I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and hope that the outcome of this 4 hours debate on this subject will being fruit for at least our next generation, if not for us. I also hope that in the coming six months we shall be having an independent Minister looking after this Department and exclusively devoted to fighting the natural calamities.

With these words, I conclude.

19.47 hrs.

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM (Hajipur) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Government to natural calamities which are being discussed in the House at the moment.

Northern part of Bihar Called 'North Bihar' has been the victim of floods for centuries and has been suffering on this

account ever since. There is a river named 'Kosi' there and it will be no exaggeration if it is called 'River of Sorrow'. Shri Daga has just now rightly said and I agree with him. If we go into the reality, we shall find that the huge amount of funds shown to have been spent in the name of floods, have not been actually spent. Had we wanted sincerely to control floods with all that money, we could have overcome it with a lesser amount, but even today, North Bihar frequently suffers from the fury of flood. A huge loss of life and property is suffered every year and many cattle heads either perish or are washed away. The soil of that area is so fertile that if floods are controlled, Bihar can become a surplus State and can feed people of other States and become another Punjab, but Bihar always faces the fury of floods due to which its people continue to suffer. Therefore, I want to say that Government have set up many Boards, one of them being Flood Control Board and spent huge funds, still they have not been able to control floods.

We would like to request you to go to North Bihar and see the land there. This land is very fertile. If floods are controlled, this land can produce more. During the floods our entire paddy crop gets submerged in water and many cattle are killed. If floods are controlled, we will be able to prevent loss of life and property there. Hajipur, from where I come, is located at the embankments of both the Ganga and the Gandak. When the Ganga and the Gandak are in flood, the entire district of Hajipur and also Vaishali District get submerged. People face this problem every year and it results in drinking water problem besides foodgrains problem. Flood water is very dirty and due to water logging several diseases break out there. We would like to draw the attention of Government towards the fact that relief work is not being executed properly because of floods. Many islands come into existence in my constituency Hajipur because Raghupur Diyar of Hajipur is located between the Ganga and the Gandak. Similarly, Manner, Patepur and Jandaha also become islands due to floods. In this way about one dozen islands are created in various parts of my constituency. In these islands relief work is to be done by

boats. Boats are also in bad condition. We are unable to provide boat facility everywhere. If we are unable to provide boat facility and supply foodgrains there, then how can we call ourselves people's representatives, how can we call our Government as people's Government? I would like to urge the Hon. Minister to formulate a master plan for at least North Bihar which has to face floods problem every year. We have spent hundreds of crores of rupees to tame Kosi, which is called the "River of Sorrow", but we have failed. A way out should be found to control the Kosi and the Gandak so that North Bihar can be saved from floods year after year. The waters of the Ganga should also be controlled.

Besides supplying foodgrains to flood-affected people we should make arrangements for providing fodder for cattle also. It is also our duty to save them. Cattle die of starvation in floods. So, we should make arrangements to supply fodder for cattle also.

As we know that floods are an annual feature, we should prepare schemes in advance so that we may be able to supply foodgrains to people and fodder for cattle in time.

Mr. Daga has rightly said that if an enquiry commission is set up to go into the matter whether hundreds of crores of rupees spent on relief work have been utilised properly or not, then you will come to know about the factual position. We would like to say that it must be ensured that hundreds of crores of rupees being spent on relief work should be utilised properly.

In South Bihar there is an Adivasi area. It is hill area also. Many parts of this area are drought-prone. No foodgrains are produced there due to droughts the local adivasis are migrating from these areas due to food problem. You might have heard in this House also that adivasis of these areas go to Punjab and Haryana in order to earn their livelihood. Foodgrains can be grown in sufficient quantity in the area of Chhota Nagpur, if minor irrigation and medium irrigation schemes are implemented and irrigation facilities provided. The relief work in this drought-affected area is also not undertaken properly.

[Shri Ram Ratan Ram]

The people of North Bihar have to face great difficulty due to floods in the Kosi, the Gandak and the Ganga rivers as many islands are created there. Relief measures may be adopted there so that we can say that we have done something for them. I would like to request the Agriculture Minister to accompany us to North Bihar once during the floods so that he may be able to know the actual position.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to speak.

I would like to say three or four things about my constituency. The Central Government has not, so far formulated any commendable flood control scheme for Morena area.

Morena constituency is a preserved constituency. I am also a Harijan. Mostly this seat has remained in the hands of Opposition. The reason is that the Central Government has not formulated any scheme for this area. As has been said by many Hon. Members, I also suggest that a survey may be conducted about the flood situation there. Many people are saying many things. In my constituency there is Gandhi Sagar Canal for providing irrigation facility, but only 25 per cent water is made available from the Gandhi Sagar as a result of which Morena area is not able to get the required quantum of water. I would like to request Government that water from Chambal Canal, which is 2 to 3 Kms. away, should be diverted to this canal so that Morena area can get adequate water supply. Similarly, there is power shortage in our area due to which the farmers are facing great difficulty there. I, therefore, would like to submit that a project should be set up on the Chambal river in Morena District to meet the power requirement of the people of that area.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you might have seen that there are dark forests between Dholpur and Morena. Forests are being eroded by 6 to 7 rivers which flow in that area. That land needs to be reclaimed for agriculture purposes in order to check that erosion. In this way thousands of people

may get land and they can earn their livelihood thereby.

A lot of discussion have taken place here on flood situation in the country. In my constituency there are two Assembly segments where what to speak of irrigation facility, even drinking water is not available, these are Adivasi areas where wells and hand pumps do not prove successful. There is acute shortage of drinking water in villages like Karabal, Vijaypur, Girdharpur, etc. A river is flowing in that area. If Government make arrangements to lift water from there and provide drinking water to Adivasis, then they can be benefited considerably. With these words I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would try to conclude my speech early. I am talking about those people, who have been struggling hard for their livelihood for the last 15 to 20 years. This area is affected by drought every year and Government spends Rs. 4 to 5 crores every year in the name of providing relief there. This area is still in the grip of drought. There is acute shortage of drinking water. Fodder is not available for cattle there. People are not getting any employment. Recently, our Hon. Prime Minister has visited this area. He met the people there and has expressed surprise on how people are pulling on there. We are glad to know that our Prime Minister has visited the Adivasi area and personally seen the condition in which people are making their both ends meet. This area is affected by drought year after year. The purpose will not be served by constructing a small nullah or Pond. Some big projects will have to be undertaken there so that people can get work for a period of 10 to 20 years. The Hon. Minister of Railways is sitting here. The people of the area had placed a demand before the Hon. Prime Minister that a railway line should be constructed from Indore to Daud with the funds provided for relief work so that the people could get work for 10 to 12 years. Mahi River Project and Johat Projects will have to be undertaken in order to provide relief to people of the area affected by drought every year. Just now Shri Bairagi was

saying that people there do not get anything to eat for 2 to 3 days continuously. People go to places where food grains are available and manage to bring handful of food grains. Adivasi people do not get anything to eat. That is why construction of this railway line is essential.

20.00 hrs.

Just now some one spoke of denudation of forests. There is need to encourage forestry today. The adivasis live in the forests and it is their only means of livelihood. Today due to denudation of forests their economic plight is deplorable. The adivasis used to sell the wood from forests or indulged in hunting. But today one does not find such thing anymore. The Central Government should prepare a special plan for those unfortunate people so that they may get suitable employment. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (S. BUTA SINGH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I must express my gratitude to the Hon. Speaker for having provided this opportunity in this august House to discuss very serious problems faced by the people of our country under very severe conditions as a result of natural calamities like drought, floods, soil erosion, land slides, etc. Sir, about three dozen hon. Members of this House have participated in this discussion. Naturally because in the respective constituencies, our people are suffering and they must speak behalf of those people who are in distress. It is a hard fact of our national life that every year the country is visited by severe floods, by droughts and in some areas, in the mountainous regions hailstorms and snow-falls, in the coastal areas, soil erosion cyclone and sea-erosions in some other areas tornados, etc. But, Sir, in the present system in which we are working there is an established procedure and norm under which the Government of India and the respective State Governments are tackling these problems. The

main organisation that has given us a set of guidelines, that is, the Finance Commission of our country. The last Finance Commission have given us the guidelines based upon which the Government of India is helping the people under the severe conditions in various parts of the country. As a result of the Eighth Finance Commission, the margin money which was meant for helping the State Governments to meet the immediate requirement of such conditions, has been increased from the earlier recommendations of the Seventh Finance Commission. It was Rs. 100.55 crores and it has been raised to Rs. 240.75 crores. The Eighth Finance Commission has revised certain norms for meeting such situations. As I mentioned, first of all, on behalf of the Hon. Members who have spoken and those who have not spoken, I must express my deep sympathies with the people who are suffering whether it is on account of drought conditions or the flood situation, I was specially directed by the Hon. Prime Minister to make it possible to visit all the affected areas almost all over the country to see how the administration locally as well as at the State level and from the Central Government is trying to ameliorate the conditions of the people who are put to hardships. Sir, it was not possible for me, till today, to visit all the areas. But as I got some opportunity, I did visit the affected areas. I went to Kerala and I went to Punjab and I propose to visit the North-Eastern States. I tried to visit there twice or thrice. But the weather conditions did not permit me. I am going to visit all the parts in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and other parts which are reeling under the difficult conditions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all these happen because of the erratic behaviour of the monsoons, whether it is drought or it is flood. Drought visits us only when the monsoon fails to come and the flood comes if the monsoons are on the heavy sides and we are affected by heavy floods. One single note which was struck by almost every Member in this House was that instead of trying to meet these situations on year to year, season to season basis,

[S. Buta Singh]

the country should try to devise a long term strategy for meeting such situations.

It is not that we have not been doing anything in this direction. There have been very serious attempts made by the authorities which are connected with handling these problems. The major part is with the Ministry of Irrigation which looks after the long-term plans of meeting the flood control situation and I have been informed that they have been attempting a long-term strategy to meet the flood situation in our country. Regular track is kept for several years to meet the flood situation. Then the Ganga Flood Control Commission and the Central Water Commission are trying how best the situation could be met and are trying to device certain measures which can tackle these problems on a long-term basis. Sir, an attempt was made by the Central Water Commission and also the Kendriya Barh Ayog to evolve some kind of model law which can help better use of the plains which are prone to floods every year. They have prepared a country-wide scheme by which the natural course of the rivers and the flow of water in these rivers which affect the plains every year could be identified and certain corrective measures can be taken by developing those plains on scientific lines suggested by the team of specialists and the scientists. I am told that the average annual loss due to floods in our country is about Rs. 505 crores and on the basis of the information given by the State Government, the total flood prone area was taken to be about 34 million hectares. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog had assessed the total flood prone areas of about 40 million hectares out of which the protectable area is 32 million hectares.

This is the extent of floods that occur in our country every year and in some State more than once. So, the Central Water Commission suggested a model law. So far only one State, i.e. Manipur, has adopted it. Many States have not adopted that Act which could help the States in devising the scientific use of plains, which

are prone to floods. I am told that some State Governments have also come forward and they are actively considering the adoption of that Act. One Hon. member, perhaps from Orissa, made a point that we should try to have an annual meeting of the Revenue Ministers. Yes, we do have Revenue Ministers' meeting every year. But earlier, our main stress was on the crop production, on the administering of land ceiling measures, on conserving the soil and protecting the land. But I assure it the hon. member that I will make it a point to meet the Revenue Ministers of various States, whenever I visit to review the flood and drought situations in their States, and we shall organise Revenue Ministers' meeting at least once every year to promote annual plan to meet such situations in the States well in time.

Some of the Hon. Members wanted to know as to what are the methods by which we can take some corrective measures. Now, so far as the cyclone warning system in India is concerned, our Meteorology Department have evolved a two-stage cyclone warning system. A warning is issued to the State Government officials and other concerned officials in the concerned State. In the first stage, the cyclone alert is issued first, about 48 hours in advance of the expected time of the land fall of the cyclone, by the highest priority land line telegrams to the Chief Secretaries and the Coastal Collectors and other officials concerned by Cyclone Warning Centres in the maritime States. This is also issued through the All India Radio to be broadcast on a larger network for people's information. At the second stage, numbered cyclone warnings are issued about 28 hours in advance of the land fall of the cyclone to the Chief Secretaries, Coastal Collectors, Coast and Fisheries officials as well as the All India Radio to be repeated through the local and regional languages.

Sir, with the present system in the Meteorology Department, we have Cyclone Warning Centres at Calcutta, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam, Madras and Bombay. These warnings are coordinated by the Director General of Meteorology Headquarters and the warning centres have been provided

with additional facilities by the Government, besides the conventional observatories. The Cyclone Detection Radar with 400 KM range is installed at Calcutta, Paradeep, Visakhapatnam, Masulipatnam, Madras, Karaikkal, Goa and Bombay. These are the latest gadgets which can help the warning institutes with quite a wide range and the areas to be affected could be forewarned, so, that the people could be saved. We also make use of Inscat-1(B) which provides continuous surveillance of the cyclone and is useful in tackling cyclones by knowing the intensity estimates. These are the methods by which we are giving information in advance to States, which are likely to be affected by cyclones.

Now, a question was raised by many members from almost all the States about the drought situation. No doubt, for the past three years, we have been facing this situation but there are States where the severity is of a very high density. For example, from 1st June to 17th July, we have the information that in some divisions in Gujarat region, the deficiency of rain was to the extent of—58 per cent, in Saurashtra alone it was (-) 83 per cent. The deficiency in East Rajasthan was (-) 38 per cent, West Madhya Pradesh : (-) 50 per cent; in Madhya Maharashtra : (-) 41 per cent; in Rayalaseema : (-) 31 per cent; in West Uttar Pradesh Hills : (-) 26 per cent. These are the areas, which have suffered very heavily under the drought conditions. At the same time, I must also say that we in the Ministry of Agriculture have been making a two-prong attempt to tackle the severe drought conditions. The first is to open relief work. There has been a lot of criticism about this. I do not say that the entire criticism is wrong. There are complaints by Hon. members both inside and outside the House and whenever they find an opportunity, they keep on informing us that in the implementation of most of the 20-Point Programme, specially under the rural development projects like IRDP, NREP and RLEGP, TRYCEM, etc., there has been a lot of mismanagement and mis-utilisation. I will go by Prof. Rao's words that the moneys are not properly used, but rather abused in some parts of the country.

Sir, you must have yourself seen and heard the Hon. Prime Minister visited some parts of Madhya Pradesh which are under severe poverty. The people mentioned to the Hon. Prime Minister when he visited—how tardy and how lopsided is the implementation of 20 point programme that is taking place down the line. We are quite aware of it. And under instructions from the Hon. Prime Minister we are trying to involve the local Members of Parliament, the MLAs and the elected representatives of the people to see that they have a very vigilant follow up of the programmes that are being implemented in various States. Sir, now the Hon. Member is not here. The Hon. Member, Mr. Thomas was saying that we are politicalising. The relief work and the work that was done under 20 point programme. Sir, I am sorry I have to comment on it. It has been observed in the State from which the Hon. Member comes, that the provisions made under 20 point programme have not been utilised for the purpose for which it was meant.

Rather on the country, the names were changed. In that State, they had given some local names to make the people believe that this money which comes from Delhi, from the Central Government under the 20 point programme is actually the money being given by that local party which rules that State; they have changed it into some local names so that it sounds as if it comes from party which rules over State in that particular area.

Sir from this very thing you can realise who is politicalising. Sir, we are ashamed of such things when they happen with people who are also under destitution, who are marooned; and if some succour is sent to them and if somebody plays with their lives, it is not playing with the money or something, it is playing with the life of the people who are very much in distress and we should be ashamed of it. Sir, I do not mind, provided this Govt. does not object to it. Whenever we tried to have deeper look into the implementation of certain things of the State Governments, the Hon. Chief Ministers come heavily on the Centre that the Centre is being partial. Now, I do not remember the name of the

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Hon. Member who mentioned that Karnataka has constructed a *bandh* over a river which has drained the complete water and now Tamil Nadu is going to start. Similarly, in Telugu Desam, some water is being used for which Karnataka will suffer. Sir this is the problem with the regional parties. They cannot have a perspective of the whole country. They go after the philosophy of sons of the soil and they do not bother what happens to that State. That is why this august House and the national parties, the people with the secular outlook they always say, I am not objecting to the regional parties taking powers into their hands, but I am saying look this is what is happening, the three different States in one line are trying to utilise the natural resources, namely, the water and the power in such a fashion that they do not care for the next door neighbours.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The Congress (I) ruled States clash together—Nagaland and Assam.

S. BUTA SINGH : Well that is not the exploitation of the natural resources. There can be local differences, but there cannot be a situation like this that the Chief Minister deliberately cuts the water resources of a State by which the people are going to suffer. That is what I have pointed out. My contention is that whenever any State tries to exploit natural resources, they should not be so self-centred, so narrow minded ..

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Don't bring in those matters here.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am not bringing it. Your States are bringing it. I am only trying to highlight that these things should not be allowed to happen.

Most of the Hon. Members while making their observations have naturally pleaded the case of their respective States and respective constituencies. It will be difficult for me to go into each and every constituency; but I can say that we never attach any importance to local feelings, whenever from the Government of India

any team goes, as Prof. Soz mentioned, its brief is not only to meet people in the Secretariat. I do not know, but I can speak on experience that I have with these Ministeries that whenever team goes, before it goes, I hold a meeting myself. I tell them : this is the information received in the Ministry, and this is the information which I have received from the Members of Parliament.

I am sure the Hon. Members from Kerala will bear me out : the Central team which went there this time was not only a team from my Ministry. After I visited the flood-affected areas, the sea-eroded areas and the landslided areas, I promised there itself, to the representatives of the people that I would try to send them a team in which would be such that they can talk to every Department of the Government. I included people from the Commerce Ministry, because plantations were involved—rubber, cardamom and cocoa are there. So, I thought : let a team go there which can on-the-spot try to identify the damage and also try to meet the points raised by the local administration and the people of that area. Similarly, people from Finance, Works and Housing, Transport and also Ministry of Rural Development were there. So, there was a compact team which could meet questions raised by the local authorities and local representatives. They came back with a very valuable information. The system under which I am trying to implement the policies of the Government of India has been devised and given in writing by the Finance Commission.

The hon. Member, Prof. Soz was agry with us saying that we do not share the information with other people. Firstly, we take information from the State Government. As soon as an area is affected either by flood or drought, we have the district authorities, the local people and revenue authorities who make an assessment and give it to their headquarters in the State. Then naturally, it is passed on to us. After receiving it, there are two methods : one is based on the dimensions of the situation. There is already margin money available to every State.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Only a small amount.

S. BUTA SINGH : That is there with view to meeting the immediate needs, within hours of the happening. The State cannot say : 'Sorry ; we did not have the money'. This instruction has been given to the States, viz. to make this money available to the headquarters of every district.

One Hon. Member mentioned—I think it was Prof. Parashar—that the board should be there. Yes ; in every district, the District Magistrate knows that in such a situation, where he has to go, for medical aid, fire-fighting etc. The States are also allowed, and given margin money well in time, so as to meet the situation on an S.O.S. call. As soon as the State Government sends us annalarm—mostly it comes through a telex—I have instructed the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation already that even if I am not here he should immediately act upon the message received from the State and should immediately rush whatever relief is available, or whatever could be given. Let us wait for the report or things like that a little later. But we cannot allow people to suffer for want of immediate attention from the Central Government, and also I want to share with the Hon. House that Hon. Members mentioned about the famine board. I have already appointed a small committee headed by the Secretary, Agriculture to go over the whole situation and suggest to the Government of India as to how best we can revise norms which could face the reality of the situation on the ground. The Hon. Members mentioned about the drought. Before I go over to flood, because drought preceded flood, I was trying to make out that we are trying to attend to these problems from two angles. (1) Drought and its hardship could be reduced by providing certain schemes in that area by which people can keep themselves engaged and can earn something. Also we try to conserve soil moisture. But one most promising thing which I want to bring to the notice of the Hon. House is that our scientists have been able to develop certain varieties of crops, seeds which can withstand hardship of the situation like drought. To illustrate my point, I will quote as to what happened during the drought situation in

the year 1978-79, I am not going to just cite an example from the Janata party Government. It is a natural calamity and we cannot foresee anything. But this is what had happened in 1979-80 (*Interruptions*) Well, the Prime Minister was *ki ar ka bata*. In 1979-80 there was a severe drought. In that year, our foodgrain production fell down from 131.90 million tonnes of previous year to 109.40 million tonnes and then the severe drought took place again in 1982-83 and 1984-85. Now, I am going to quote figures on the decline of our agricultural production. The drought in 1982-83 was very severe, but the figures show that the agricultural production which had risen by about 133 million tonnes in 1981-82 it dropped only by about 3 million tonnes, earlier in 1979-80 it dropped over 21 million tonnes. That means that our scientists are now in a position to give to the farmers those seeds which are capable of standing the severe situation in a drought. Similarly during 1983-84 it came to about 151 million tonnes and it dropped marginally in 1984-85 when another drought took place. What I am trying to make out is that our scientists are now trying to fight out the drought situation not only by providing succour to the people, not only by providing the best attention to the health of the soil, but, at the same time, they have been able to develop certain crops and certain seeds which can grow even in the difficult drought conditions. That is my point and we are proud of it that our scientists have been able to evolve that kind of a thing.

About relief work, in most of the drought affected areas, I can quote figures from various States in which the Government of India has provided timely relief. But one thing I want to share with the Hon. Members is that we ourselves are not happy over the implementation of some of the schemes which are taken up by the State Governments and not that all the States are following that track. For example, under the flood situation I have seen myself in Kerala, it is not only that State happens to be ruled by a party to which I belong, but even I met the opposition people there. They informed me that as soon as news reached the Secretariat, the Chief Minister, and his colleagues who were busy in the

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Assembly Session, they immediately adjourned the Assembly and requested all the MLAs to go to their constituencies and try to help people in their constituencies.

And I am told that 1,920 relief centres have been opened in Kerala. I saw about half a dozen of them, along with the Chief Minister I met the people who were suffering. I could not talk to them because I never knew their language. But I was able to feel myself that they were quite satisfied with the steps taken by the State Government and they were able to get relief. And they pointed out to me, because I had my own people also to tell me, that in this present calamity the first people to reach them were the district authorities who provided them the timely help and the people were happy that they were saved from further disaster, in the situation. Otherwise the casualties would have been much more, the danger would have been much more, but for the timely help of the State Government.

I am sorry that the Hon. Members from States like Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh who spoke, did not have the same experience. Our Hon. Prime Minister is very seriously concerned about it and we are trying to devise some monitoring system from the Government of India's side, to see that the money that is meant for the eradication of poverty, and for meeting the distress situations in the country, is spent strictly for the purpose for which it has been sanctioned and for that matter we are having a very serious thought, of course, in consultation with the States to devise a method by which we can have some kind of a central monitoring system.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the schemes which I have mentioned for the central relief, whether they are for the floods or for drought are devised based upon the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission and within those parameters we will try to do our best, to see that the States receive their minimum share and attention immediately.

Now, Hon. Members from Kerala, they spoke at length from almost both the sides

of the House. I need not go into the details, but from 1980-81 to 1984-85 the central relief both in drought and flood, till today has been to the tune of Rs. 85.52 crores in Kerala.

In Madhya Pradesh, the drought assistance from the Central Government from 1980-81 to 1984-85 has been Rs. 119.69 crores, and Madhya Pradesh had asked for further drought relief and our experts and the central team are examining and we will see how best we can help the State Government.

Now, one Hon. Member mentioned about drinking water in Madhya Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh the number of problem villages as on 1-4-1980 was 24,944 and towards the end of 1984, the number has come down to 1,099. This is the number of villages which still are in need of help.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : May I interrupt please, for a second? A number of villages were declared as scarcity villages from drinking water point of view a long time ago, in 1980-81 or even in 1980. But today, the water level in a very considerable number of villages has gone down and those affected have neither been surveyed nor any measures taken. Even though they have not been surveyed, because of the strict procedure and the rules of the Government of India, they have not been declared as problem villages. That is why the number seems to have gone down, but actually the number has not gone down.

S BUTA SINGH : We will take into account this changed condition and I will pass on the information to the Ministry of Works & Housing for re-checking it. For Orissa, the Central assistance, sanctioned for the drought condition was Rs 8.95 crores. And no request has been received from the State Government for any further assistance. Also, at the same time, we have not received any representation from the State Government about floods. Unfortunately, placed as I am, I cannot take upon myself this task unless the State Government itself does not come forward. And it is provided under the Statute, Shri Panika has pointed out that Uttar Pradesh went by default. In such situations I will request the Hon. Members to sit with their own State Governments and

try to tell the State Governments that if they are not prepared to come forward and if they are found wanting in that respect, neither this House nor anybody can do anything. Specially I want to convey this message to the Hon. Members of this House that God helps only those who help themselves.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Since it is not assistance, they try to manage with plan assistance with difficulty. Unless compelled and unless the situation arises, they do not try to approach the Centre because whatever you give them, that has to be adjusted against plan allocation in future.

I rose on another point and that is that conversion of short-term loan into medium term loan should be made at least where tornado has affected the agriculturists. Only the Reserve Bank has got to be prevailed upon to agree to this.

S. BUTA SINGH : I will still argue with Hon. friend that he should try to persuade the State Government to take up all these suggestions.

In Karnataka the number of problem villages as on 1.1 1980 was 15456 and now the number of problem villages attended to is 15443 leaving only 13 villages. I think, this can be termed as hundred per cent implementation and we should be proud of this. But I am sorry to say that no Hon. Member from Karnataka has complimented the Government on this. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : He is not yielding.

S. BUTA SINGH : This is a problem of development. If you are going on foot, you would like to have a cycle. If you are having a cycle, then you would like to have a motor-cycle. Then you would like to have a car and go on to the aeroplane. I am prepared to consider, as I promised to the Hon. Members from Madhya Pradesh, if the conditions have changed, if the water table has gone down and there are more problem villages which could not be identified when the census was taken, we are prepared to do it again. Let the Hon. Members from

Karnataka produce the statistics, we are prepared to do it again. It is a continuous process and we have not stopped.

Under the accelerated rural water scheme the first instalment of Rs. 14.12 crores has been released to the Karnataka Government this year. And also according to the detailed programme, we are having our own scheme to cover all the rural Population for drinking water in that State.

About Bihar, I am afraid, again that question will come because the Central Government cannot, and I repeat cannot, take over the responsibility of implementing the schemes in the talukas, in the villages, in tehsils and districts. The machinery will continue to be the State Government machinery. As I mentioned in the beginning of my remarks, we are thinking of associating the Hon. Members of Parliament from their respective constituencies, with all the rural development programmes like IRDP, NREP, e'c., so that if not anything else, they can at least report to the Government of India as to how far the implementation of these schemes is being done sincerely, how far it is being done correctly, and if there are any lapses which they bring to our notice, we can definitely go into them..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Sir, when the M.Ps are not involved in the schemes in the rural districts, how could they get the things done? At least M.Ps. should be made one of the members of the committee in Karnataka.

S. BUTA SINGH : The guideline from the Government of India is that we should try to include the representatives in the DRDA (District Rural Development Agency). But in case it is not there, we will try to make it a condition that the Hon. Members and the elected representatives..... (*Interruptions*). From today onwards I would request my Hon. colleague to pay more attention..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Many Members of Parliament are not associated. In Karnataka also the same thing is there. They are not associated with the implementation. (*Interruption*).

S BUTA SINGH : We will send a directive and we will make it compulsory that Hon Members should be associated.....
(*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Sir, the Hon. Minister has just stated about the respective constituencies. What I referred to was about North Bihar flood. It is not a particular constituency but the entire North Bihar is suffering from the havoc of floods every year. So, I would like to know whether there is any scheme or plan of the Centre just to save us from the flood. The entire North Bihar is suffering from floods.

S. BUTA SINGH : As I mentioned, there are certain schemes which the Central Government is trying to implement for the major rivers and, I am sure, Hon. Member's State is covered.

In Bihar, Punpun, Rajwaha and Gandak are the rivers which are covered by the Central scheme.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : What about Kosi? Kosi is actually a river of sorrow.

S. BUTA SINGH : Kosi is included in the Seventh Five Year Plan, in collaboration with Nepal.

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Thank you, Sir. Very nice.

S. BUTA SINGH : So far as the money released to Bihar is concerned, and also I would like to mention for the information of Prof. Soz - well, I cannot speak for what happened in the past, but I have in my ministry said - that whenever the money is approved, the first step should be to immediately release the money to the State Government (*Interruptions*).

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : So good of you.

S. BUTA SINGH : So, Sir, in the year 1984-85 under flood relief, the money released for Bihar was Rs. 58.95 crores. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh has been sanctioned for drought in 1985-86 Rs. 51.78 crores, and in the whole period of Sixth Plan, Uttar

Pradesh received Rs. 362.81 crores. At the moment, there is no pending request from Uttar Pradesh.....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : This figure of Rs. 58.95 crores for Bihar relates to the year 1984-85. You have just mentioned about the flood relief, but what about the drought relief.

S. BUTA SINGH : In 1983-84, money released for the drought relief was Rs. 8,938 crores and the total amount from 1980-81 to 1983-84 was Rs. 58.18 crores.

Similarly, about Rajasthan, to which I have the privilege to belong to, whatever request was received from the State Government, was promptly attended to and there is no request pending before me.

Our difficulty is that we release the money to the State Governments. That is why I want the Hon Members to be more vigilant. Now, in future, what I can do is that I can circulate to two Hon. Members that so much money for such a scheme has been given to that particular state and the Hon. Member should try to see that that money is spent for the people for whom it is meant.

Similarly about Himachal Pradesh.

I have mentioned about Kerala. I am really grateful to the Hon. Member from Kerala who have showered so much of their generosity on me. Well, I have done only what I am to do.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : But you have never visited Lakshadweep.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am sorry Lakshadweep was hit by the sea-erosion only a few hours after I left Kerala. I would request the Hon. Member to bring me some kind of a memorandum from the Administration so that we can consider it.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : I would also request the Hon. Minister to pay a visit at the earliest opportunity.

S. BUTA SINGH : Yes, as soon as the weather permits.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKARI BAIRAGI : You will not alone. You will take Balkair with you.

[English]

S. BUTA SINGH : About Punjab, only yesterday. I completed my survey. And let me tell Prof. Soz that although I did make the survey by air, yet I had made it a point and I had already told the authorities to collect their representatives at a place where I could touch so that I could meet the people from the three district - Kapurthalla, Jalandhur, and Hoshiarpur - which are affected by the severe floods in Punjab.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Excuse me, Sir, it is a new deal and you have made a new commitment. Would you confirm that whenever a team visits any place in any State, Members of Parliament will be called irrespective of their party affiliation ?

S. BUTA SINGH : They will be informed and they can meet the team.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Also you said that you will associate us at the district level. I do not think that by merely sending a direction to a State Government will mean anything unless this kind of norm and this kind of reform is incorporated in the very scheme. For example somebody from Karnataka said that he was not invited. If he has not been invited, I take exception to the behaviour of that Government. But as far as our State Government at this moment is concerned, it has not been inviting me at all although I am a Member of the District Development Board.

S. BUTA SINGH : Well, I take the suggestions from the Hon. Members and we will implement them.

Now, the situation in Punjab is that the total arrival of rainfall in that State any season is 600 milli-metre whereas within 24 hours the State received a rainfall of 524 millimetres. That means within 24 hours' period the State received the rainfall of the whole Monsoon period. So, you can imagine what will happen to the people of the

State. Unfortunately, the people have been very badly affected there and they have been marooned. Thousands of villages and lakhs of people have been affected. I was told that five lakh acres of paddy crops, which were recently sown, are under five to eight feet deep water. There also whatever immediately could be done, we have done. I have asked the State Government to get in touch with the Central Team. The State Government has promised that it will try to go in for replantation of the paddy, because we cannot miss that belt in Punjab which is a major rice-producing area. I am told by our scientists that there are varieties which can be grown even at a late stage and will not affect the yield to a great extent. Therefore, in Kerala also. I made this announcement to the farmers that we will not hesitate; whatever quantity of seed, fertilizer or input is asked for by the State to replant the crops, the Central Government will immediately provide these to the Kerala Government and the North Eastern States which have suffered as a result of floods, and also Punjab, or wherever such situation arises. We will try to see that adequate support is given to the farmer to raise his crop and not to have the agricultural production affected by these calamities.

Again at the end I want to assure the Hon. House...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Many Members spoke about inter-linking the rivers.

S. BUTA SINGH : That is a laudable idea.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is being talked about for long. How long do you think it will take ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Revolving fund also.

S. BUTA SINGH : Both the issues - the idea of revolving fund and also the linking of Northern Indian rivers to the South Indian rivers, are commendable ideas and I will sit with my colleagues; I will try to convey it to the respective Ministries to see that it is done.

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But, Sir, let me again conclude my remarks by saying this; Our heart goes out to those who are suffering under severe conditions in our country. And we should at every level at the level of voluntary agencies, political parties and people's representatives immediately try to attend to the problems of those of our brothers and sisters who are suffering under these difficult conditions.

But, Sir, I have to say with some reservation that the country started with drought and ended in floods. I started this discussion from flood and the House is now empty, - almost a drought.

20. 52 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July, 26, 1985, Sravana 4, 1907 (Saka)

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